General Discussion on the Budget—(*contd.*)

Mr. President.—I may inform the Hon'ble Members that at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Government Members will begin their reply. So, Hon'ble Non-official Members may adjust their speeches accordingly.

Srimathy P. Meenakshikutty Amma.—Sir, may I avail myself of this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the Government for the honour they have conferred on me in nominating me as the Lady Member of this Council; an honour, though coveted and enviable, yet bristles with difficulties of a no mean order for one who aims at the conscientious discharge of her duties. This time I who represent the Ladies' Constituency am exceedingly fortunate in having a companion in Miss D'Souza, the Anglo Indian Member, which rare privilege was denied to my predecessor who occupied this same seat. This welcome duality may have been deliberate or accidental, more the former, for the Government might have realised the ridiculousness of having just a solitary female propped up in the Council. The responsibility that devolves upon the single individual who is to represent the ladies of this State, about 50 per cent of the population of Cochin, is something stupendous and to do full justice to the duties attached to this office it is highly essential to make at least two nominations from amongst us. Sir, my humble suggestion is to have one Member to represent the southern section and another to represent the northern. Two heads are always better than one and in all problems, thorny all, pertaining to the womenfolk of the State it is desirable to have two or more heads put together in consultation before the final commitment is made. We can't always expect Miss D'Souzas to represent the Anglo-Indian Community; it is best the Government nominate two lady members not putting the only one to the vagaries of an accidental coincidence of incidents to get a companion for her.

Being a maiden hand in this Council and not having the full advantage of experence in administrative undertakings it is not my intention to make a regular and studied budget speech to-day but to refer to and glance at some of the outstanding points which my short acquaintance with this august assembly has supplied me with.

Romans for Romans, myself for those whom I have got to represent and voice forth. The problem of unemployment at present has assumed momentous proportions not in any particular locality but throughout the whole world. Womenfolk too

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

are not immune from this vampire incubus. With circumscribed scope, in this State which occupies the rank and file in matters of female education compared to other nationalities, educated female unemployment is rife and at its worst. It will be quite in consonance with the onward move of the State if the Government would take some effective remedial measures to cope with this situation. I for one would suggest the increased employment of female hands in all departments of the State to ameliorate their condition. Disabilities on the score of technical inefficiency can easily be set at naught by recruiting us also for training and apprenticeship. Given the facilities and opportunities no educated lady in the State, I can assure the Government, would shirk the responsibilities of high offices especially in view of enhanced emoluments. Labour, mental or manual, carries with it a certain amount of prestige and dignity and this has been driven home into the minds of people by the fulminant unemployment malady.

The department of education absorbs the largest number of women in the State. In this connection I would like to place a point of suggestion before the Government for their kind consideration. Maternity leave at present is granted for two months only on full pay. By such an arrangement the three parties involved stand to suffer much. The health of the mother gets impaired due to work when her physical system most needs rest. So also the child's not getting the proper care expected of a mother. The pupils of the class get a temporary dislocation of their programme work, so detrimental to their interests. The new appointee is neither here nor there. To counteract all these the Government should ordain compulsory maternity leave for just 4 months though only on half pay allowance.

Sir, there are a few items of public interest I want to bring to the notice of the Government which may profitably be taken up by the Education Department. (1) Revival of the languishing cottage industries for women is something which demands the immediate attention of the State. If it is not possible to spend large sums of money on schemes of revival, such industries can at least be encouraged in schools with special time and facilities allocated for this work. Outsiders also may be allowed to lend a hand on slight considerations. The net product, however, must not be allowed to rot or to be embezzled but should be sold to the public on a co-operative basis.

(2) Facilities for the first aid instruction provided in the State at present are both inadequate and insufficient. Even

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

compulsory diploma courses in this branch will not be too much if introduced into the various educational institutions of the State. But in the syllabus to be constituted prominence should be given equally if not more to the Ayurvedic system of first aid than to the western system. A harmonious blending of the twowould neutralise the bad effects of both resulting in very many practical advantages.

(3) It is an oft heard complaint that it is impossible to provide for religious and moral instructions for students in a modern fairly representative class. We can understand the formidable barriers confronting the Government in their attempts to make this a compulsory item in the curricula when schools are, in the apt words of an authority "veritable parliaments of religions". But this should not blind us to the indispensable necessity of religious education in moulding the character and destiny of young children Religion is the bulwark of society and lack of a firm religious foundation in students will have its inevitable repercussions on the community to which the students belong. Especially in the case of Hindus who have no Sunday classes or Sabbath observances, something intrinsic and tangible should be done by the Government. This may be done by allowing forthcoming private agencies to impart religious education to these children during a certain fixed hour of the day. Also general moral and religious instructions can be given to all students without prejudicing anybody's interests.

No provision for rural reconstruction is found mentioned in the Budget estimate of the State for the year. This is not an item to be completely ignored or played with. As a matter of fact it has become a crying necessity in Modern Cochin. The rural reconstruction schemes of Gandhiji should find their way into this tiny State also. Real India is rural India and the salvation of India lies in the amelioration of the village. Every constituent part of India has to contribute its quota in redressing the disabilities of the village. The one comprehensive heading under whose banner would rally round almost all the other items is the question of illiteracy. Illiteracy among the rural population has done much harm in the day-to-day activities of the State. The rights of franchise in many places have been ill-exercised or abused, reverberations of which are heard even in this Council Hall. It is a glaring fact that the Indian villager is born in debt, live in debt and die in debt—not that *illiteracy* has caused indebtedness but in numerous cases it has tended to give these debts a long and protracted lease of life. Illiteracy among women has been condemned as the prime cause of India's backwardness. The Simon Commission time and again refers

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to this fact "the root cause of India's backwardness is her illiterate mother. The woman's movement in India holds the key of progress." As the late Sen Gupta once remarked, "there cannot be with impunity paralyse half the nation and by its dead weight handicap the other." The first move on the part of the Government should be to introduce compulsory and free primary education throughout the State. Schools should be set up in rural areas, appointments in which should be invariably given to the literate unemployed belonging to that particular locality. Of course, peripatetic teaching experts can be sent to these rural institutions once a week or so for general supervision and instruction. Some capital has to be sunk on this account but expenditure under this head should not be considered extravagant at all—every rupee spent here is surely worth its weight in gold. The 2nd item of programme should be the inauguration of rural libraries, (moving if need be), to facilitate the radiation and diffusion of education and incidentally culture in these rural areas. Those in charge of these libraries must be able to enthuse the common laity to reading and books. Also the villagers should be enlightened on various difficult points by means of cinemas and agricultural shows. More than all, we have got to redeem these poor illiterate peasants from the rural indebtedness so characteristic of the Indian villager. The Land Mortgage Bank now contemplated by the Government will prove a great asset to the ryots when it is ushered into existence. The practice of moratorium cannot be of much real use to the people though this may bridge the difficulties for the time being. If a perodical wiping of debts can be arranged as suggested by Devadhar and actually done in Bhavanagar State, then of course the whole thing comes off easy. But I don't think our Government's financial position is stable enough to embark upon such a venture-some career. Hence the one blessing of the Cochin ryot is to be the land mortgage bank which is in the embryo just at present.

The Public Health Department, though subjected to the most pungent and acrid of criticisms by some Hon'ble Members is an organ of the Government which has got vast possibilities before it. It can do much for the State, its general health and material progress. In the realms of sanitation, medical attendance, etc., the services it can render and has rendered are invaluable. Entirely due to the fact of its recent inauguration, we find its leaps and bounds interspersed with halts. Yet there is a sanguine cause for hope in the future. This department has to start activities forthwith on the following two lines. (1) The compulsory segregation and proper treatment of vagrant

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beggars affected with contagious diseases. This is an item on which the Government has bestowed not much of consideration as is demanded by the seriousness of the problem. In places like England we find, how by adopting preventive checks and avoiding incidents by compulsory isolation in the intitial stages, leprosy has almost been nipped in the bud. In such places as may be expected, it is dying a natural death. Drastic measures should be undertaken by this State also, so that a wide berth may be given to such diseases in the future at least. The Public Health Department can do much here, if it but cares. The beggars as also the poor problem of the State must be tackled by the same department. Unemployed poor should be found jobs for—their stastics must be taken and periodical recruitment from amongst them should de done as vacancies arise in any department. I am sure if such a plan be put in vogue, all the other heads of departments would extend their hearty co-operation and sympathy for the successful working of the scheme. The beggars of the State are really pests in the sense that they trouble people only too often and without considerations of time, place or manner. There should be organised relief, not promiscuous charity by some and nothing at all by others. Old age and widows pension must be given. Work houses and poor houses should be maintained at State expense and guidance. For all these expenses what are known as poor rates may be collected from individuals according to ability and institutions according to status. Compulsory legislation would have to be enacted, yet these havegot to be successfully gone through for the sake of our seething brethren.

It is to be a much regretted fact that the Nambudiri Bill, which one of my predecessors saw through this Council has not been put in practice as yet. Everything seems all right on paper but in the realm of reality—of practical existence—nothing comes off. Repeated agitations on the part of the community, even females, have not shaken the Government of its apathy. It is high time the Government abandoned this inexplicable coma and roused themselves to action on this already enacted bill.

In the Land Revenue Department, the remission of 12 per cent that has been given is so far so good, but the Government should see a stillfurther reduction effected, if unexpected contingencies arise and pulverise the land-owners.

In conclusion, I thank you all for the patient hearing you have accorded me. I hope the Government would take stock of the various points I have raised and would do something

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

salutory and beneficial to the State. Some of the problems do demand instantaneous action and it rests with the Government to act up to the occasion. Ours is only to suggest and recommend, theirs it is to hear and execute. Let us hope for the best.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen.—Mr. President, Sir, before coming to a discussion of the Budget, I take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the Diwan for the brilliant speech which this House had the unique privilege to listen to. Little did I expect, Sir, that the "dry as dust" structure of our Government could be made capable of yielding to the exigencies of the situation. The reason is not far to seek. With a mechanic's eye into the machinery of things the Diwan got in touch with the public opinion prevailing in the country. For the unravelling of hitherto closed aspects of the administration and the earnest desire expressed by the head of the Government to be sustained by public opinion, the speech is remarkable. We hope, Sir, that the sentiments expressed therein would be the precursor to the dawn of a new era in Cochin when she can enjoy complete freedom as a proud member of Greater India. The agriculturists who were thirsting for relief from their deep and deepening distress would acclaim the declaration of the moratorium as one of the greatest acts of statesmanship. And I have to thank the Diwan on their behalf for the right step he has taken preliminary to a practical contribution towards the solution of agricultural indebtedness. Moreover, I am delighted, Sir, to learn that the Government under the intiative of the Diwan propose to effect up-to date legislation for the betterment of the condition of industrial and agricultural labourers of the State. Great administrators are the guideposts and landmarks in the State and I confidently expect the regime of the present Diwan will not be, as in the past, a record of concessions delayed until they have lost their grace, of rights denied until extorted from their fears.

Now, coming to the Budget, I have to remark, as the Hon. Finance Member, in his speech, says that our incomes are practically stationary and expenditure rising up. The expenditure rose from 65·02 lakhs in 1101 to 90·43 in 1109 without corresponding increase in the material and moral well-being of the people. This is a matter which calls forth the special attention of the House. People have been clamouring for retrenchment in every department of the Administration and it seems as though such clamour provokes the Government to more and more spending. I would urge on the Government the necessity of instituting a thorough enquiry into the cost of Administration

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and effect rigorous retrenchment so that more funds may be available for the economic uplift of the masses and a wider diffusion of education in the country. I am not convinced, Sir, of the reasonableness of the attitude of one Hon. Member with regard to the salary cut of the Government Officers. Even in big schemes of things, to which the Hon. Member refers, economy in expenditure must form the most important item. It is dereliction of duty on the part of the representative of the people to permit even the minutest waste in administration, not to speak of the disproportionately fat salaries the officers of the Government are drawing under the patronage of an irresponsible executive. Every rupee that is taken for such unnecessary expenditure of Government is so much withdrawn from the large sums, which it is our duty to spend for saving the masses from the depth of poverty and starvation. I venture to hope that in this matter, there will be complete unanimity on the non-official side.

The tendency of the Government seems to be, Sir, to follow a policy of continuous piling of tax on tax and a ceaseless adding to the burden of the suffering people. The establishment of the Health Department with the attendant taxes is the apparent paradox of a Government trying to maintain the health of the people by taking away the very life of theirs. The Hon. Member for Irinjalakuda gave us a true picture of the distressing conditions under which petty tea-shops wallas and such other dealers eke out their livelihood and how the imposition of the new taxes of the Health Department has become an unbearable load to them. In different parts of the State huge public meetings were held and resolutions passed protesting against the new taxes. It is curious, Sir, that in spite of the fact that 90 per cent of the revenue of the State is charged on the poor by way of indirect taxation, the Government still takes such fiendish pleasure in squeezing more and more from them. Nothing but callousness, nothing but shortsightedness can drive a Government to the recourse of taxing those people whose gross income would not come to more than three annas per day and which is absolutely insufficient to keep their life going. Government thus actually plunders a portion of their food and takes away the only source of their nourishment and all these, Sir, on the ostensible plea of giving them health. We who live in the actualities of the hard situation consider it our duty to urge on behalf of those poor famished souls no less than in the interest of good administration that the Government should immediately undertake remedial measures to put a stop to these taxes.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I would like to say a word about education. Though it has become a fashion for us to boast of a high standard of education it has not come up to the level obtained in a modern and civilised State. Greater and wider diffusion of education has to be attempted at. Compulsory primary education is the only remedy to suggest. Lakhs of rupees spent on college equipments and extensions which would only benefit a few chosen rich could well have been utilised for imparting primary education to thousands more of the sons and daughters of the poor. I hope the Government would appreciate the principle that general education is the foundation and necessary antecedent of increased economic activities and therefore the Government would try every nerve to make primary education compulsory to all children of school age.

The economic problem that has been brought to the forefront of the politics of Cochin requires more than a passing remark. The two questions which confront the Government for urgent solution is agricultural indebtedness and unemployment. It is gratifying to learn that a start has been made in the right direction. The Royal Proclamation, no doubt, would save some who can produce unimpeachable security under the existing scheme of things; but whose possessions would otherwise have been injested by the tentacles of the money-lender due to a delay in the distribution of the loan. What I infer, Sir, from the speech of the Diwan, is that this respite is given to the debtors till the Land Mortgage Bank becomes an accomplished fact. But the question is what per cent of the debtors would be benefitted by the Land Mortgage Bank as things are at present. 99 per cent of the agriculturists debtors have encumbrances on their properties almost equal to their present value. Presuming that the Land Mortgage Bank like the Loan Department would be advancing money to the extent of 75 per cent of the present value of landed property it is evident that not a single debtor of this 99 per cent can hope to be benefitted by that Bank. Hence certain conditions are to be satisfied before the Bank can usefully function.

The market value of property has been reduced to a third of what it was before the depression and to that extent the paying capacity of the debtor has been lowered. Hence his liability must be fixed at a level equal to his repaying capacity. Such a drastic reduction of debts alone would really save the majority of the debtors from their present straitened circumstances. This scheme should precede the starting of the Bank to enable the debtors to reap the fruits of a Land Mrotgage Bank. The

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

creditor's position would not be worse off than before, as the cost of living has been considerably lowered with the fall in the price of commodities. Even if it affects them they too are bound to share the sufferings of their brethren and bear sacrifices cheerfully for the well-being of the majority. Objections have been raised, Sir, to this method of arbitrary reduction on the ground that the Government would be under moral obligation to pay off the creditor immediately; that the resources at the command of the Government is not sufficient at present to completely wipe off indebtedness of the State and that such relief that could be given to some would create discontent in others. The last contingency may become more evident in the present arrangement and so can be easily dispensed with. Even if the Government cannot raise sufficient money to meet the whole indebtedness, with the capital which the Government propose to invest in the Bank greater numbers can be given relief under the debt reduction scheme and contentment would prevail in the country. I hope, Sir, that the boldest statesmanship would inspire the counsels of the Government in such a vital matter which affects the backbone of the country. With regard to the unemployment problem I have to bring to the attention of the Government the necessity of opening industries at State cost in villages not confining them to towns alone.

I would say a few words, Sir, with regard to my constituency. It has been the singular misfortune of my constituency, which extends from the sea to the mountains, that the Public Works Department has neglected to include important items of works which are very urgently needed. Construction of roads in Edavilang, Karalam and Ponthessary, the widening of Kattur Road are all immediate necessities to be attended to and which were brought to the notice of the Government many a time. I have to press the attention of the Government to the most inadequate supply of water to crops in Madaikonam etc.

Lastly, Sir, I wish to express my growing desire for constitutional reforms which Cochin is legitimately entitled to. Since the inception of the Council this Hall has been reverberating with the echoes of the demand for constitutional reforms but to no avail. The burden of woes and sufferings of our people can be removed only by the grant of responsible Government. Let me conclude, Sir, with the words of the great orator "People have sent their petition, they have prayed for your help and protection. They seek to be delivered from an intolerable burden of woe and shame to removing which you don't seem to offer even the smallest practical contribution". But, Sir, the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

removal of that load of woe and shame is a great and noble prize. It is a prize well worth competing for. It is not yet too late to try to win it; but be assured that whether you mean to claim for yourself even a single leaf in that immortal chapter of renown which will be the reward of true labour or whether you turn your back upon that cause and upon your own duty, I believe for one, that the death knell of despotism in the country has sounded. So far as the human eye can judge it is about to be destroyed. The destruction may not come in the way or by the means that we should choose; but come this boon from what hands it may, it will be a noble boon, and as a noble boon would gladly be accepted by our people and the world.

Mr. P. C. Varckey.—Sir, permit me first to offer you a most hearty welcome, even at this belated stage, on behalf of my constituency. Before I proceed to offer my general remarks on the revised Budget for 1110 and the budget estimates for the year 1111, let me take this opportunity to thank you and your Government for the privileges this Council has now obtained in the matter of the constitution of four Standing Committees of this House. You propose to bring all the nation-building departments within the purview of these committees. You thus afford us an opportunity to get an insight into all the practical administrative problems and no doubt your object is much to be applauded. We hope your officers will co-operate heart and soul with the non-official members of these committees and work out your scheme with great success. This, no doubt, is a good move in the right line of constitutional progress; but, Sir, I must confess I expected more substantial reforms at your hands. You have been in the lime-light of Political Developments and constitutional reforms, for well-nigh over 15 years of your life. You have sat in one local Legislative Council and also have had the honour of presiding over the Indian Legislative Assembly. With such wide and well-reputed experience as yours, it is only natural that we should expect at your hands further constitutional reforms, such as the constitution of an executive council for this State, the throwing open of the President-ship of the Council to the vote of the House, allowing a free discussion in the Council of such important subjects as the Harbour, the Railway, etc. While you were pleased, during the course of your presidential address yesterday, to take us into your confidence regarding what our Government have been doing in the past in connection with the Harbour and the Railway schemes, over which 1½ crores of the rate-payers' money is being spent, is it not unfair, I ask, that this House is not given

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the privilege of interpellating on this all-important question? As it is, we should remain contented with such voluntary utterances as are made from time to time by the Presidents of the Council. It is only from the time of Mr. Herbert, your predecessor in office, that we have had the previlege of attending to such speeches. While we thank you whole-heartedly, we request you, Sir, as a politician of inter-national reputation, to consider seriously the desirability of extending to this House the privilege of discussing this subject freely, with a view to help the Government and to obtain public support in such a bold venture as this.

The administrative reforms that you have now set in working order, within a couple of months from the date of your assuming charge of the office of the Diwan of Cochin, no doubt, speak for themselves. You have set the ball in motion in right earnest. The additional powers you have given to the Heads of Departments are only of a routine nature and I hope it can do no harm. The changes you have effected in the Huzur Secretariat for converting it into a Government Secretariat, are most welcome, especially in view of the fact that the desired effect has been brought about without incurring any additional expenditure. But in this connection, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not bring to your notice that, while effecting these changes, you have lost sight of the constitution of a Public Services Commission, over which the ill-represented communities have been agitating for a very long time. You are perhaps aware of the fact that, during your predecessor's time, Government have given out from the floor of this very House, an assurance to the effect that they have decided to constitute a Public Services Commission. This House passed resolutions and cut-motions and have urged this matter times without number. For some unknown reason, the proposed commission did not take any definite shape or form. Naturally, therefore, the public of Cochin, especially the major communities like the Christians, the Ezhavas etc. expected this to be materialised at least through your efforts along with the reorganisation of the Huzur Secretariat. Let me tell you, Sir, that we are extremely disappointed in this matter. If you will only have the patience to go through the Proceedings of the last Council connected with the subject of the constitution of the Public Services Commission, you will be able to realise the extreme necessity for bringing into being the Public Services Commission immediately. The ill-represented and unrepresented communities fail to get an adequate share of the fishes and loaves of the services, inspite of the most strict circulars of the Government. Heads of Departments need not be blamed in this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

matter. Nothing short of a Public Services Commission will rectify this deep-rooted evil.

It is only very recently the Government of Travancore passed a similar measure and appointed a Public Services Commissioner, framing definite rules with regard to the rotation of communities. I do not for a moment approve of the appointment of a single person as Commissioner. It has several defects; but one thing is certain—it is better than not to have any machinery at all to regulate the recruitment of candidates into the services of the State. Without impairing efficiency, the unrepresented and inadequately represented communities must find it possible to get their legitimate quota of appointments in the Public Services. I most firmly hope the Diwan will move in this matter forthwith and bring into being a suitable machinery or at least frame a set of rules for meeting out justice to all alike.

No doubt, the temporary moratorium of which you made mention yesterday, and the proposed establishment of a Land Mortgage Bank in this State, are real boons to the Agriculturist debtors. But, I may be permitted to sound a note of warning in this connection. Our experiences of the establishment of a similar Bank in Travancore, are rather disappointing. The Bank has not so far been able to achieve the object for which it was created. Nor am I inclined to think the Land Mortgage Banks of the Madras Presidency are working with considerable success in those parts. If I am wrong, I may be corrected. Nor are these Banks affording any immediate relief to the agriculturist debtors. Hence, the utmost care and caution should be taken in setting on foot an institution like this which has not been found successful in our neighbouring State and elsewhere. It is true you are getting down two experts. I would however request the Diwan to move in this matter very cautiously and carefully. I should not be understood to be speaking against the scheme. My request, on the other hand, is that the scheme should be carefully piloted, in order that it may be rendered really useful and beneficial to the agriculturist population.

I have something to say in sincere appreciation of what is being proposed to be done in the matter of constituting a section in the Secretariat for publicity. Correct information on matters of policy and administration is proposed to be supplied by the Government hereafter to the Press. With this object in view, you propose to have a press room in the Huzur Secretariat, to which representatives of the Press will be invited from time to time. As the Editor of one of the long-standing papers of this State,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I must acknowledge with the deepest sense of gratitude, that this is a real boon to the State. Such a publicity office was a long-felt need in this State and we are glad we are in sight of it at last now. On behalf of the Press, I wish to assure you, Sir, that you shall always have our best co-operation and support in this connection.

Representing as I do, one-half of the Metropolis of this State, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not bring to the notice of the Government the sad state of affairs existing in the extreme north and eastern parts of my constituency. While the inhabitants of these parts of the Ernakulam Town are subject to the burden of extra taxation and other impositions of the Municipality, it is very regrettable indeed to note that they are not getting any of the amenities. Pipe water has not been made available to the great majority of the people of those parts; people do not get good water even for drinking purposes; there is no proper lighting, and there is an utter lack of roads. In a word, these parts of the town look worse than the remotest village parts, even though they form part of the Metropolis of the enlightened State of Cochin. The sanitary conditions especially are extremely poor, with the result the people are always sick and ill. Sir, I request the Diwan to make it convenient for him to make a personal inspection of my constituency and satisfy himself as to the correctness of the statements I make here. Of course this is a very serious defect of the Municipal Administration; but I do not lay the whole blame at the door of the Chairman for the simple reason that I know that it is partly due to want of funds. I therefore request the Diwan to kindly make generous contributions to the Ernakulam Municipality with a view to improve this town which is the capital of the State. It is well-known to all that our Sister State of Travancore is spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees every year to improve and beautify her capital. The Government of Travancore or any other State Governments do not entirely depend upon Municipal funds to improve their capital cities. In the case of Ernakulam the Town Improvement Scheme drawn up by Mr. Dann, the Town-planning Expert is shelved in one of the drawers of the Secretariat. I hope Government will take this out as early as possible and commence to carry out the recommendations contained therein without further delay. Instead of opening a road here and improving a canal there to please this party or that party in a piece-meal fashion, the scheme as a whole may be taken in hand and its execution may be spread over a few years if funds are not available to complete the whole scheme in the course of a year or two.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

As I find there are many members who wish to offer their general remarks, I shall reserve my observations on the figures in the Budget for the time being.

In conclusion I wish to remind the Hon'ble Members of this House that we ought to maintain the dignity and prestige of this House and ought not to bring down the tone of our deliberations by descending to personal attacks. I am referring to certain speeches made yesterday strongly attacking a particular officer. I do not say we should refrain from attacking his public acts, as an Officer, when they are detrimental to the interests of the people. The amalgamation of the Public Health Department with the Panchayat Department has been made use of by some Members to descend to a volley of personal abuses. This is quite unfair. It is being tried as an experimental measure only for a year. If, at the end of the period, this experiment is not found successful, then we shall sit in judgment and request the Government to separate it or to continue it as the case may be. We are not justified in prejudging the issue as some of the Hon'ble Members have chosen to do. I regret they are making use of this occasion to ventilate their personal grievances against one officer or other, and this no doubt is an utter abuse of our privilege as Members of this august Assembly. Sir, I thank you and the Hon'ble Members for listening to me so patiently.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—Sir, I do not propose to congratulate the Government on the surplus budget now before this House, before assuring myself that it will not turn out a deficit one before the year concerned is out, as its predecessor did. I looked in vain from page after page of the budget and was sorely disappointed in not finding an indication anywhere of a bold policy calculated to solve the burning questions of the day or to alleviate the miseries of the poor or the distress of the unemployed, educated and uneducated, or to increase the material prosperity of the State. Nowhere did I find any schemes for rural uplift or for the improvement of the economic position of the people. In vain did I search in the Budget to find anything to sustain the hope held out in the very first memorable public utterance of that great Statesman, Financier and Industrialist, who now guides the destinies of our State. I refer to the reply which Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty gave to the address presented to him by the citizens of Cochin on the 21st of April last. Mark what he said. He said that "Cochin had vast economic resources which had not been tapped even on the surface and that unless steps were taken for industrial

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

advancement in the State the people would be confronted with problems far more complex than what they had to face so far". He continued, "the only solution for unemployment was commercial and industrial development".

Perhaps we should not be impatient. Rome was not built in a day. Let us wait and see.

Now coming to the Budget, may I boldly venture the remark that the Standing Finance Committee has had absolutely no hand in framing the budget. The preliminary edition of the Budget which is before the House now was I believe almost exactly the same when it was put into the hands of the Standing Finance Committee. If any useful purpose is to be served by the Finance Committee, the members thereof should not only be consulted before the framing of the budget but must have a hand in its actual framing.

The budget before the House is a confused mixture of figures; perhaps it is the privilege of all Government budgets to be so. It is impossible to get a clear idea of the real assets and liabilities of the Government from the Budget; it is not possible to get any correct idea about the working of the commercial concerns belonging to the State; it is not possible to know how certain figures have been arrived at, unless their past History is known. It is not possible to find out from the budget the present value of many of the investments of the Government, for instance, Tramway, Stone-ware-works, Shares in the Tanneries, Vaniampara Rubber Co. etc. While Government insists on the publication of all such facts in the case of joint-stock companies, I fail to understand why Government themselves should not publish all information that will enable the House to appraise the real financial position of the Government. And without that information, it will be idle to expect this House to be able to give any useful advice to the Government.

I shall give but one instance of the puzzles with which the budget abounds. The explanatory memorandum of the Financial Member says, while dealing with the revised Estimates of 1110, Disbursements, under Tramway, that "the revised estimate would exceed the budget estimate of Rs. 116600 by Rs. 71200, mainly due to the purchase of the rails of our Meter Gauge Railway for the renewal of permanent way and partly due to the larger quantity of fuel that had to be purchased". Going through the detailed account No. 12 Tramway, we find against permanent way there is an increase of Rs.

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66728 in the Revised Estimates. It may therefore be safely guessed that this sum of Rs. 66728 represent the value of rails purchased from *our* Meter gauge. The word used is *our*. It therefore follows that the said figure of Rs. 66728 is something like a transfer entry. It finds a place under disbursement but it is a real puzzle to trace its place under 'Receipts'. There are of course some new features in the budget under discussion as explained in the Financial Memorandum, and I welcome the departure as a very useful one. Let me hope that the next budget will be prepared in a more intelligible way and contain all the information needed to have a correct idea of the Financial position of the State.

It is high time that Government lays down some definite policies regarding expenditure under the various headings. The Expenditure of such of the departments which are mainly worked for revenue must be made to bear some proportion to the receipts. It is bad administration to allow the receipts to decrease without effecting any reduction under expenditure. I shall cite only one instance. Take the Forest Department. The average annual income from the forest department in the 4 years 1102 to 1105 inclusive, is 5·92 lakhs while the average annual expenditure during the same period was 2·40 lakhs. In the next 4 years 1106 to 1109 inclusive, while the annual average income has fallen to 3·19 lakhs, the average annual expenditure has risen to 2·42 lakhs. In other words, the receipts have fallen by about 46 p. c. while there has been absolutely no reduction in expenditure, on the other hand there is a slight increase. I can well understand that it will not be possible to reduce the expenditure in exactly the same proportion to the fall in the Receipts, but unless some way is found to keep down the expenditure when the receipts fall, the department will have to be wound up sooner or later.

Regarding the nation-building departments like Education, Co-operation, Agriculture etc., I think that I can safely say without being branded as belonging to the primitive age, that, before the expenditure is increased, it must be ascertained if proportionate public benefit would result. I think it is a mistaken pride to spend 17 lakhs for Education just to be able to say that Cochin spends 17 p. c. of its income on Education whereas the advanced State of Baroda even with her primary education free in many parts is only spending 14 p. c. of her income on Education. Spend as much as you can on Education but spend it on the right sort of education. 8 days more and one full year would have elapsed since the Educational Member

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

admitted on the very floor of this House that 'with regard to the colossal unemployment among the educated classes, the only line of improvement lies in an overhauling of the system of education with a view to bringing it into touch with the needs of life'. He also announced that proposals for giving a vocational turn in the Secondary classes, and for organising a system of Industrial education are being considered by the Government. Though nearly a year has elapsed since then, nothing tangible seems to have been done to improve the system of the present admittedly defective education. Yet the expenditure in the educational department is steadily increasing. Another sad but true confession of the Educational Member was that where ten men were employed usually in private enterprises Government might employ a dozen. I compliment him on his frankness and have to tell him that his remarks are verily applicable to his department as well. It is high time for Government to seriously consider if they cannot with advantage withdraw their own primary and secondary schools from places where there are well-conducted primary and secondary schools, under private agencies and in those places the Education Department should rest contented with seeing that the recognised and grant-in-aid receiving institutions strictly follow the syllabus sanctioned by the department. It is high time that Government comes out with a well-drawn-up syllabus containing provisions for a sound general Education, supplimented by a strong emphasis on Vocational training adjusted to modern economic requirements. My remarks apply to the other nation-building departments also, *mutatis, mutandis*.

It is indeed sad that there is no indication in the budget of anything like a bold industrial policy. No doubt there is an indication of Government's intention to work the Stoneware Factory on a commercial scale. The present pottery expert is reported to be a technical man who knows his work, but no satisfactory arrangements seem to have been made to look to the business side of the concern. There is not a word about the Cochin Tanneries in the Budget. What is to become of the large sums of money invested in it by many a poor shareholder because he thought that Government was backing it up; what is the fate of the large amount which Government has invested in it? The studied silence of the Government in the matter of the Tanneries has given a rude shock to joint-stock enterprise in the State, backed though it may be by Government. The budget for the current year had provided for 4 lakhs of rupees under Capital outlay for electrical works. Nothing was

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

done in the matter and in the budget under discussion the provision has been reduced to Rs. 25,000. This is indeed a very retrograde policy and, I may be pardoned if I say, indicates that the Government is afraid to take risks even in matters where the chances of failure are very remote. A bold industrial policy will alone enable the Government to meet the ever increasing expenditure of administration. Railway unfortunately is a sealed word to this House; why it should be so is more than I can understand. I do not know what it is in Travancore but in Mysore it is not so. I have no doubt if the Railway finances are subject to the scrutiny and criticism of this House, the expenditure under Railway will show a decrease and the receipts will show an increase. I am not convinced that the convenience of the Cochin public requires the running of 5 passenger trains up and 5 down every day. I am not convinced that no unnecessary capital expenditures are being incurred. What shall I say about the well that was recently sunk near the Trichur Railway Station at an expense of, it is said, about Rs. 30,000 of our public money. The concession rates allowed on some goods from distant stations like Bombay to some of the stations on our Railway confer little benefit to us and in some cases are detrimental to our financial interests. So long as matters connected with the Railway are not to be discussed in this House, the only remedy I can suggest is to get greater representation for Cochinites in the Railway Advisory Board. The Diwan is of course an ex-officio Member but amidst his more important and multifarious duties, he can ill-afford to spend any portion of his time for discharging the duties of a member of the Railway Advisory Board.

There are other equally sealed words to this House to wit, Harbour, Devaswoms, Palace etc. but the Diwan's speech on the opening day of this Session has given us hopes that the ban on at least some of these words will soon be lifted.

Sir, I welcome the wholesome departure which our present Diwan made on the opening day in making a statement to this House about Harbour especially its 4th Stage and the general implications of the Federation. May I request you, Sir, to convey to the Diwan that the Hon'ble Members of this House cherish the fond hope that this useful practice of making statements on all state matters of public importance — though they may be beyond the congnizance of this House — will be continued.

It will be very useful and save lot of time and trouble not only to the non-official members of this House but also to

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the official members, if, besides the rights of interpellations and moving resolutions, the Hon'ble Members are given the right of making 'representations' and if written answers to these representations are given in the Council, it will save lot of interpellations, cut motions and resolutions and expedite the business of the House. I believe this practice is current in the Mysore Legislative Assembly.

Sir, a word more about the water supply of Trichur. I find against the water supply of Ernakulam for 1110 the estimate is Rs. 20,950, the revised estimate, Rs. 26,583 and in 1111 Rs. 39,153. For Mattanchery the budget estimate for 1110 is Rs. 50,935, revised estimate, Rs. 81,251 and for 1111 Rs. 34,100. For Trichur for 1110 the estimate is Rs. 19,600, revised estimate Rs. 19,100 and for 1111 Rs. 9,000 only. The new works, Water Supply, in the Trichur Municipality has made a provision of Rs. 7,000 for 1111. The total provision for water supply, Municipal as well as Government comes only to Rs. 16,000. Well, I can only feel that the cry for water from one end of the town to the other during the last summer has not reached the ears of the Government. It is perhaps due to the headquarters of the Government being situated at a distance. But the Engineering Member is at Trichur and the cry must have reached him. No half-hearted measure for the solution of the water problem of Trichur would solve the problem. What would be the fate of Ernakulam but for the able policy which Mr. Bannerjee (now Sir A. Bannerjee) adopted in bringing water from a distance of about 20 or 15 miles from Chowera. I believe the only right solution of the Trichur Water probem will be the bringing of water from Chalakudy river to Trichur. Perhaps it may be due to the laborious correspondence that has to be carried on with the Sister State of Travancore that no mention is made of it in the present year's budget.

Mr. President.—We shall now adjourn the House ....

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, may I suggest that in view of the fact that there are a large number of Members desirous of partaking in the General Discussion on the Budget I request the President to cut short the interval.

Mr. President.— I have no objection if the Hon'ble Members wish it.

The House now stands adjourned till 2 O'clock.

The House rose for lunch at One of the Clock and re-assembled at Two of the Clock with the Deputy President in the Chair.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി.— മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്! സർ, വ്യയാതിശയത്തോടുകൂടിയ രണ്ട് സാമ്പത്തികവഷ്ങ്ങളെ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കേണ്ടിവന്ന നമ്മുടെ ഗവമ്മെൻറിന് അടുത്ത വഷ്ത്തേക്ക് ന്യൻ,൦൦൦ ക, യെങ്കിലും മിച്ചം കാണിക്കുന്ന ആയാധികമായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറു തയ്യാറാക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതിൽ ധനകാര്യദശിയെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകതന്നെ ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാലും ഈ മിച്ചം മുന്നാണ്ടുകളേപ്പോലെ കേവലം പ്രതീക്ഷയിൽമാത്രം കലാശിക്കുകയില്ലേ? എന്ന ന്യായമായ ആശങ്കയ്ക്കും വഴി നൽകാതിരിക്കുവാൻ അതീതവഷ്ങ്ങളിലെ അനുഭവം അനുവദിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയും ഇവിടെ വിസ്മരിക്കുവാൻ തരമില്ല. ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണിക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ മിച്ചം യഥാത്ഥമായി പരിണമിച്ചാൽതന്നെയും നമ്മുടെ സാമ്പത്തിക നില ആശാസ്യമോ ആശാവഹമോ ആണെന്ന പറയുവാൻ തരമില്ല. വർദ്ധമാനോന്മുഖമായ ചിലവുകളും ചുമതലകളുമുള്ള നമ്മുടെ ഈ ചെറിയ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരുമാനം മിക്കവാറും കഴിഞ്ഞ പത്തു വഷ്ങ്ങളായി ഒരേ നിലയിൽത്തന്നെ നില്ക്കുന്നതേയുള്ളൂ എന്നാണു കാണുന്നത്. ഇനി കൂടുതൽ ചുമത്തുവാൻ നിവ്വാഹമില്ലാത്തവിധം ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരം അത്രമേൽ ഉവ്വഹമായിതീന്നിട്ടുമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയിൽ കടൽചുങ്കം ഒന്നുമാത്രമാണ് കൂടുതൽ വരുമാനത്തിന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടാവുന്ന ഒരു ഇനം. എന്നാൽ ഹാർബറിൻെറ നാലാംഘട്ടം അനിശ്ചിതമായ നിലയിൽ കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥിതിക്ക് ആ ഇനത്തിലും ആശക്കൊത്തവണ്ണമുള്ള വരുംപടിക്ക് തൽക്കാലം വഴികാണുന്നില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ആയഭാഗം ഈ നിലയിൽ അവ്യക്തമായ ഭാവിയോടുകൂടിയിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു പഴയ തറവാട്ടുകാരണവരെപ്പോലെ, ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഉള്ളമാതിരി ചിലവുചെയ്യുക എന്ന നയമാണ് ഫിനാൻസു മെമ്പർ സ്വീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു.

നാട്ടിലെ സാമാന്യജനങ്ങളുടെ ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിന്നു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനും നിരവധി സാധുക്കൾക്കു തൊഴിലുണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുന്നതിന്നു പയ്യാപ്തമായതും അതേ സമയംതന്നെ ഗതാഗത സൌകര്യങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു വാണിജ്യവ്യവസയാങ്ങളുടെ ക്രമപ്രവൃദ്ധമായ പുരോഗതിയെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതിന്നതുകുന്നതും ആയ പൊതുമരാമത്തു വേലകൾ പലതും പ്രോഗ്രാമിൽനിന്നു വെട്ടി നീക്കം ചെയ്യുകയും, ജനക്ഷേമകരങ്ങളായ മറു പല ഡവലപ്പുമെൻറു വകുപ്പുകളുടെ വ്യയഭാഗത്തു പിശുക്കു പിടിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിന്നു ധനകാര്യമെമ്പറെ എത്രമാത്രം കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്താമെന്നു എനിക്കു നിശ്ചയമില്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ വരവനുസരിച്ചു ഇതിൽ കൂടുതൽ എങ്ങിനെയാണു ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നതെന്ന് അനുകമ്പാർഹമായ നിലയേയാണു അദ്ദേഹം അവലംബിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു. വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ പട്ടിണിയിട്ടുംകൊണ്ട് എത്രകാലം ഈ നിലയിൽ പിശുക്കിക്കഴിയുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്നു സംഗതി അദ്ദേഹത്തി

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

നേറയും ഗവമ്മേൻറിനേറയും ആലോചനകർക്ക വിഷയീഭവിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. ഈവരവുകൊണ്ട് ചിലവേ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി സമ്മതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ജനങ്ങളുടെ നികുതിഭാരം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കാതെ തന്നെ അന്യമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽക്കൂടി ഗവമ്മേൻറിനേറ ആദായം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള പോംവഴി കണ്ടുപിടിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു ചുമതല ഗവമ്മേൻറിനില്ലേ എന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു. തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയും ദാരിദ്ര്യവും നാട്ടിൽ ദിനംപ്രതി വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരികയാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ ക്ഷേമത്തോടൊപ്പംതന്നെ സമാധാനജീവിതത്തേയും ഭഞ്ജിക്കുവാൻ ഇടയുള്ള ഈ മഹാവിപത്തിനെ ദൂരീകരിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള എന്തെങ്കിലും നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളോടുകൂടാത്ത ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സ്വീകാര്യമോ ആശാസ്യമോ അല്ല. രാജ്യത്തിൽ മറുവിധത്തിലുള്ള എന്തെല്ലാം പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ വരുത്തിയാലും തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മക്കും ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിനും ഉപശമനം കാണാതിരിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം കാലം നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു സമാധാനവും ക്ഷേമവും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതല്ല. കൃഷിപ്രധാനമെന്നു പറയപ്പെടുന്ന ഇന്നാട്ടിൽ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കു പൊതുവേ നേരിട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ഇടിവു നിമിത്തം കൃഷി അനാദായകരമായി തീർന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിനോടൊപ്പം തൊഴിലില്ലായ്മയും വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ ദുസ്ഥിതിയെ പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ സധീരമായ ഒരു കായ്പരിപാടി ഗവമ്മേൻറ് അംഗീകരിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെ ദീർഘദൃഷ്ടിയോടുകൂടി ചില സംരംഭങ്ങൾ ആരംഭിക്കുവാനുള്ള സന്നദ്ധതയുണ്ടാവുന്നപക്ഷം അതു ഗവമ്മേൻറിൻറെ വരുമാനത്തെ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാനുംകൂടി സഹായിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അസംസ്കൃത സാധനങ്ങൾ സുലഭമായിട്ടുള്ള നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു തൊഴിൽ കൊടുപ്പാൻ തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ ഗവമ്മേൻറിൻറെ മേൽ നോട്ടത്തിലും നിയന്ത്രണത്തിലും ആവശ്യമായ മൂലധനമിറക്കി സ്ഥാപിച്ചു വ്യവസായതല്പരരായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു തീരെ വിലയിടിഞ്ഞു് ആദായമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളടഞ്ഞു് അടുത്ത ഭാവിയിലെങ്ങും ഉൽഗതിക്കുമാർഗ്ഗമില്ലാതെ വലഞ്ഞു നട്ടംതിരിയുന്ന ജനസമുദായം വ്യവസായപരങ്ങളായ പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിൽ ഇറങ്ങി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ ഇന്നു തികച്ചും അശക്തരാണെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ല. ഗവമ്മേൻറിൽനിന്നും നടത്തിവരുന്ന മൺപാത്ര വ്യവസായം, തുകൽവ്യവസായം എന്നിവകളുടെ അനുഭവം വ്യവസായത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുന്നതു ശുഭപ്രതീക്ഷയുള്ളവരേയും ആവക സംരംഭങ്ങളിൽനിന്നു പിൻതിരിക്കുവാൻ തികച്ചും പര്യാപ്തമാകുന്നതാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് പ്രാരംഭദശയിൽ ഏതാനും വ്യവസായങ്ങളെങ്കിലും മാതൃകായോഗ്യമായ നിലയിൽ ഗവമ്മേൻറിൽനിന്നു മൂലധനമിറക്കി രാജ്യത്തിൽ നടപ്പാക്കേണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു കിട്ടിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാലല്ലാതെ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ വിവിധഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ വിജയകരമായി നടത്താവുന്നതും രാജ്യത്തിനു പൊതുവെ സ്വീകാര്യമായുള്ളതുമായ വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ ഏതെല്ലാമെന്നു തീച്ചയാക്കുക വയ്യെന്നു് ഗവമ്മേൻറു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

പക്ഷത്തുനിന്നു പഴയ പല്ലവിതന്നെ ഇതിന്നും മറുപടിയായി പാടുമെന്ന് എനിക്കു നിശ്ചയമുണ്ട്. സാമ്പത്തിക പര്യവേഷകന്റെ വിദഗ്ധാഭിപ്രായം എന്തുതന്നെയായിരുന്നാലും സാമ്പത്തിക വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തെപ്പോലെതന്നെ വിദഗ്ധരായ ഈ സഭയിലെ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാക്കുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം ഗവമ്മെൻറു ത്യാജ്യകോടിയിൽ തള്ളുകയില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നില്ല. എങ്കിലും, കയറു, കയറുപായ, ചവുട്ടി, വലകൾ, മറുതരം സഞ്ചികൾ, ചിരട്ടകൊണ്ടുള്ള കുട്ടുകൾ, കളിസാധനങ്ങൾ, പോട്ട, തഴ, പുല്ല മുതലായവകൊണ്ടുള്ള പലതരം വിചിത്രങ്ങളും മനോഹരങ്ങളുമായ പായകൾ, വട്ടികൾ, കളിസാമാനങ്ങൾ, മുളകൊണ്ടുള്ള കൊട്ടകൾ, തൊട്ടികൾ, മറു പാത്രങ്ങൾ, തുകൽവ്യവസായം, കളിയടക്കാ വ്യവസായം, ചൂരൽസാമാനങ്ങൾ, കാട്ടിലെ ഇഴുട്ടി, തേക്കു മുതലായ വിശേഷപ്പെട്ട മരങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു്, മേശ, കസാല, അലമാരി തുടങ്ങിയുള്ള സാധന സാമഗ്രികൾ, കടലാസ്സു നിർമ്മാണം, റബർ വ്യവസായം തുടങ്ങി എത്രയെത്ര വ്യവസായങ്ങളാണു് ഇവിടെ വിജയകരമായി നടത്താവുന്നതായി ഉള്ളതെന്നു് എണ്ണിപ്പറഞ്ഞാൽ തീരാത്തവിധം അത്ര അധികമാണു്. നമ്മുടെ അയൽരാജ്യമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ആവശ്യമുള്ള ഉപ്പിന്റെ ഏതാണ്ടു മുക്കാൽ ഭാഗവും അവിടെത്തന്നെ ഗവമ്മെൻറു മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിവരുന്നുണ്ടു്. അവിടത്തെപ്പോലെയുള്ള എല്ലാ സൌകര്യങ്ങളും ഇവിടേയും ഉണ്ടെങ്കിലും കൊച്ചി ഗവമ്മെൻറു് ഇന്നും ബോബെ ഉപ്പിനേയും തൂത്തുക്കുടി ഉപ്പിനേയും ആശ്രയിച്ചു കഴിയുന്നു.

കഴിഞ്ഞ കൌൺസിലിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട എക്സൈസു മെമ്പർ കൊച്ചിയിലുണ്ടാക്കിയ പഞ്ചസാരയുടെ മാതൃക കൌൺസിലിൽ പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായെങ്കിലും അതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തന പരിപാടി ഇപ്പോൾ എത്രമാത്രം പുരോഗമനം പ്രാപിച്ചുവെന്നോ ഗവമ്മെൻറു് ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഇറങ്ങി പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ സന്നദ്ധമായിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നും മറുമുള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോഴും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് അജ്ഞാതമായിതന്നെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയണമെന്നു സൂചിപ്പിക്കയല്ലാതെ പ്രായോഗിക നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളോ പദ്ധതികളൊ സമർപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ഭാരം ഇപ്പോൾ എന്റേതല്ല.

കടൽതീരങ്ങളിലും കായൽതീരങ്ങളിലും താമസിച്ചു വരുന്നവരും മത്സ്യബന്ധംകൊണ്ടു് ഉപജീവനം കഴിച്ചുവരുന്നവരുമായ ഒരു വലിയ ജനവിഭാഗത്തിന്റെയിടയിൽ ഏതാനും വർഷങ്ങളായി മിക്കവാറും അനസ്യൂതമായി ഉണ്ടായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന "മത്സ്യപ്പഞ്ഞം"മൂലമുള്ള ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിനു് ഉപശമനം കാണുന്നതിനു് പര്യാപ്തമായ ചില പ്രായോഗിക നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നായരമ്പലം വില്ലേജിലെ സാമ്പത്തിക സർവ്വേ റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിനേക്കാൾ വിപുലമായ ഒരു സ്കീം ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഫിഷറി വിദഗ്ധനായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനും

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഗവമ്മെൻറിലേക്ക സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ആ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളോ സ്കീമോ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാനുള്ള യാതൊരേർപ്പാടും ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ കാണുന്നില്ല. ആ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളോ സ്കീമോ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുന്നതുമൂലം ആ വ്യവസായങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നിരവധി ദരിദ്രസഹോദരന്മാക്ക് ആഹാരത്തിനുള്ള വഴി മാത്രമല്ല ഉണ്ടാകുന്നത്. ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ വരുമാനം സാരമായി വർദ്ധിക്കുവാനും അതു സഹായിക്കും. ക്രൂടാതെ കായലിലെ നെൽകൃഷിക്കും അതു വളരെ ഉപകാരപ്രദമായി തീരുന്നതാണ്.

ലോകത്തിലെ മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളെ എന്നപോലെ നമ്മെയും അഭിമുഖീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തിൻെറ ശാസ്ത്രീയവശങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ ഉൽഘാടന പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ചെയ്ത പ്രതിപാദനം വളരെ വിജ്ഞേയമായിരുന്നുവെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാതെ തരമില്ല. ഈ പ്രശ്നത്തിൻെറ ദ്വിതീയമുഖമായ വിലയിടിവിനെക്കുറിച്ചു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാൻ തുടങ്ങിയപ്പോൾ വിസ്തൃതവും പ്രായോഗികവുമായ സാമ്പത്തിക ശാസ്ത്രവൈദഗ്ദ്ധ്യം സമ്പാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരു രാജ്യകാര്യ പ്രവീണൻ എന്ന നിലയിൽ അദ്ദേഹം നമ്മുടെ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്ക് അല്പമെങ്കിലും ക്രുതലായ വില ലഭിക്കുവാനുള്ള വല്ല കാര്യമായ വഴിയും ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ അടുത്ത വർഷത്തെ കാര്യപരിപാടിയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി പ്രസ്താവിക്കുമെന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയോടുകൂടി പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തിൻെറ ദ്വിമുഖങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ഒരു ശാസ്ത്രീയ പ്രതിപാദനംകൊണ്ട് ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വിലയിടിവു മൂലം നിത്യതപോലും കഴിച്ചുകൂട്ടുവാൻ വിഷമിക്കുന്ന കർഷകജനതക്ക് എതൊരാശ്വാസമാണ് ഉണ്ടാകുവാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നു.

കാർഷികപര്യവേക്ഷണം നടത്തി കാർഷികോല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു വില വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും മറ്റുമായുള്ള ഒരു ഇമ്പീരിയൽ പ്രസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ കൊച്ചി ഗവമ്മെൻറ് ഒരു അംഗമായി ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു, അതിൻെറ ക്രൂടിയാലോചനകളിൽ പങ്കുകൊള്ളുന്നതിനു ഇവിടെനിന്നും നമ്മുടെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട റവന്യൂ മെമ്പറും കൃഷിവകുപ്പദ്ധ്യക്ഷനും മറ്റും ഇടയ്ക്കിടയ്ക്കു ഡെൽഹിയാത്ര ചെയ്യാറുണ്ടെന്നും കടലാസ്സുകളിൽ കാണാറുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അതിൽ ചേർന്നതുകൊണ്ടു നമുക്കുള്ള ഗുണമെന്തെന്നോ അവർ അവിടെചെന്നു നമുക്കുവേണ്ടി എന്തു ചെയ്യുവെന്നോ ഇവിടെ ആർക്കും യാതൊരറിവും ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. കൊപ്രയുടേയും വെളിച്ചെണ്ണയുടേയും മറ്റു കേരവിഭവങ്ങളുടേയും വില വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഈ സഭയും ഈ നാട്ടിലെ തെങ്ങു കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ സഭകളും ഗവമ്മെൻറിൻെറ മുമ്പാകെ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള നിവേദനങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഗവമ്മെൻറ് എന്തു ചെയ്തു എന്നു ഞങ്ങൾക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ഇവിടെ ചില മാർക്കറ്റിംഗ് ആഫീസ്സർമാരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു മറ്റു പല ഗവമ്മെൻറുകളെ അനുകരിച്ചു ഇവിടേ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

യും രണ്ടുപേരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് സമാധാനിക്കാൻ മാത്രമല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവർ ഇതുവരെ എന്തു ചെയ്തുവെന്നും എന്താണു ചെയ്യാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നും പൊതുജനങ്ങളേയും അവരുടെ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്നവരേയും അറിയിക്കുന്നതു് ഉപകാരമായിരിക്കും.

അവസാനമായി ഞാൻ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം വഹിക്കുന്ന സമുദായത്തിന്റെ നേരെ ഗവമ്മെൻറു് അനുവർത്തിക്കുന്ന നയത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഒയനീയമാംവണ്ണം ഇന്നും പിന്നാണിയിൽ നില്ക്കുന്ന എന്റെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ പുരോഗതിയെ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചു് കരുണാനിധിയായ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവമ്മെൻറു സകരുണം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആനുകൂല്യങ്ങളെ കൃതജ്ഞതാപൂർവ്വം അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി ആ സൌജന്യങ്ങൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചു് വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സമ്പാദിച്ചു് ഉദ്യോഗാർത്ഥികളായി പുറത്തുവരുന്ന മുസ്ലീം യുവാക്കന്മാരോടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരും ഗവമ്മെൻറും അനുകമ്പാപൂർവ്വമായിട്ടല്ല പെരുമാറുന്നതെന്നു പറയേണ്ടിവന്നതിൽ എനിക്കു് അനല്പമായ വ്യസനമുണ്ടു്. ആദ്യമായി രാജ്യത്തിൽനിന്നും ബി. എ. മുതലായ ഉൽകൃഷ്ടബിരുദങ്ങൾ സമ്പാദിക്കുവാൻ ഭാഗ്യമുണ്ടായ മുസ്ലീം യുവാക്കന്മാർ ഇവിടെ ശരിയായ പ്രോത്സാഹനം ലഭിക്കായ്കകൊണ്ടു് മദിരാശി ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ അഭയംപ്രാപിക്കുകയാണുണ്ടായതു്. ഉദ്യോഗ നിയമന കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ സർവ്വീസ്സിൽ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം കുറഞ്ഞ അവശസമുദായങ്ങളുടെ അപേക്ഷകൾക്കു മുൻഗണന നൽകണമെന്നുള്ള നയം ഗവമ്മെൻറു് അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി പലപ്പോഴും പറയാറുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം ഞങ്ങളുടെ അനുഭവം തീരെ നിരാശാജനകമാണെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിൽ അവിടത്തെ ഗവമ്മെൻറുകൾ മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങൾക്കു ചെയ്യുവരുന്ന പ്രത്യേകാനുകൂല്യങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നേരിട്ടറിവുള്ള സർ, ആർ. കെ. ഷൺമുഖം ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങളുടെ ഈ വിഷയത്തിലുള്ള സങ്കടങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റിയും പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കാതിരിക്കയില്ലെന്നു് ഞാൻ പൂർണ്ണമായും വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

എറണാകുളം വടക്കെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ചില സംഗതികൾ ഇവിടെ വിവരിയ്ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ എനിയ്ക്കു് ആ വിഷയത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഇൻറെറസ്റ്റ് ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് ഒരു മറുപടിയുംകൂടി പറഞ്ഞു് എന്റെ പ്രസംഗം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നു വിചാരിയ്ക്കുന്നു.

എറണാകുളം ടൌണിൽ പുതുതായി റോഡുകൾ കൂട്ടുതലായി തുറന്നുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു് സ്ഥലം വിലകൂടാതെ (ഫ്രീസറണ്ടർ) ലഭിക്കുന്ന ഭാഗങ്ങളിലാണു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ പട്ടണത്തിലെ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയുടെ വരുമാനം നോക്കുന്നപക്ഷം—ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ യാതൊരു സഹായവും ഇല്ലാത്ത സ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കു് — അവക്കു കൂട്ടുതലായ വിലകൂടാ സ്ഥലം വാ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ങ്ങി റോഡുകൾ തുറക്കുവാൻ സാധിയ്ക്കുകയില്ലെന്നുള്ളതു തീച്ചയാണ്. ഈ നിലയിൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഏറണാകുളം വടക്കേ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലം മെമ്പർ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയെപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള ഭാഗം ശരിയല്ലെന്ന് എനിയ്ക്ക് ഈ കൌൺസിലിനെ വിശ്വസിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ.— മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡൻറ്, സർ, ഫ്രഫ്രഫ-ാമാണ്ടിലെ ബഡ്ജറ്റു സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ നിയമസഭാ സാമാജികനെന്ന നിലയിൽ എനിയ്ക്കുള്ളതായ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിയ്ക്കുവാൻ അവസരം തന്നതിൽ നന്ദിപറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

സർ, നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിലെ പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലും വച്ച് ജനക്ഷേമത്തിനുതകുന്നതായ ഏറവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിൽ ഒന്ന് പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറാകുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളിൽ പൌരബോധം ജനിപ്പിയ്ക്കുന്നതിനും, ചുമതലാബോധം വളത്തുന്നതിനും പഞ്ചായത്തുകൾ ഏറവും പര്യാപ്തമായവയുമാകുന്നു. ഈ പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിൽനിന്നാണ് സ്വയംഭരണത്തിൻെറ സ്വഭാവം നാട്ടുകാർ ശരിയായി മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവൺമെൻറു് പഞ്ചായത്തുകളോടു പെരുമാറി വരുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അനുക്രമമായി ഇതു വളർന്ന് നാട്ടിൻെറ നന്മയ്ക്കും, നാട്ടുകാരുടെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയ്ക്കും പഞ്ചായത്തുഭരണം എത്രമേൽ പ്രയോജകീഭവിയ്ക്കുമെന്ന് ഞാൻ എടുത്തുപറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷത്തോളംതന്നെ തുക ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടില്ലെന്നു കാണുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അസ്വാദ്ധ്യശങ്കയ്ക്ക് അല്പവാറ അന്തസ്സാപത്തെ ഉളവാക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻേറയും, പബ്ലിക്ക് ഹെൽത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻേറയും പ്രവൃത്തിരംഗവും, പ്രവൃത്തിവിഷയവും അടുത്തു ബന്ധിയ്ക്കപ്പെട്ട കിടക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് അവ തമ്മിൽ യോജിപ്പിച്ചു് ഒരു വകുപ്പധ്യക്ഷൻെറ കീഴിലാക്കിയതു് ന്യായമായിട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നുതന്നെയാണെങ്കിലും അതിൻെറ ഫലവും പരിണാമവും പ്രവൃത്തിമൂലത്തിൽ വരുമ്പോൾ നാട്ടിന് എത്രകണ്ടു ഗുണകരമായിരിയ്ക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതു കണ്ടുതന്നെ അറിയേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു്. വകുപ്പധ്യക്ഷൻെറ ജോലിക്കുറുതൽകൊണ്ടു് അവശ്യം സംഭവിച്ചേയ്ക്കാവുന്ന നോട്ടക്കുറവു് പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെ ബാധിയ്ക്കുന്നതാണെങ്കിൽ അതു് പരിതാപകരമായിരിയ്ക്കുന്നതാണു്. പഞ്ചായത്തുകൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ അധികാരം കൊടുക്കേണ്ട സംഗതിയും ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ ആലോചനാവിഷയമാകേണ്ടതാകുന്നു. ഇത്രയുംകാലത്തെ പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൻെറ പ്രവർത്തനംകൊണ്ടും അതു തികച്ചും ഒരു വിജയമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു സർവ്വസമ്മതമായികഴിഞ്ഞിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ തങ്ങളാൽ ആവുന്ന പങ്കു്, പ്രതിഫലേച്ഛകൂടാതെ, രാജ്യഭക്തിയേയും രാജ്യത്തേയും മാത്രം ലാക്കാക്കി എടുക്കുവാൻ സന്നദ്ധരായി ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരിയ്ക്കുന്ന പഞ്ചായത്തു ഭാരവാഹികൾ, തടിച്ച ശമ്പളവും വാങ്ങി പ്രവൃത്തിയെടു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേക്കാൾ തീച്ചയായും ഉൽകൃഷ്ടന്മാരും, മാന്യരും ആകുന്നു. അവരുടെ അധികാരങ്ങളും പ്രവൃത്തിപരിപാടിയും ഒന്നു നവീകരിച്ചു വിപുലമാക്കിത്തീർക്കേണ്ടതായ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ നാം എത്തിച്ചേർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റെ ഖണ്ഡിതമായ അഭിപ്രായം.

സർ, കൊച്ചീ രാജ്യത്തെ പാലങ്ങളിൽ വച്ച് ഏറ്റവും പ്രാധാന്യത്തെ അർഹിയ്ക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണെല്ലോ ചെറുതുരുത്തി പാലം. മറ്റു പാലങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്തിലുള്ള രണ്ടു കരകളേയോ, ദേശങ്ങളേയോ, വില്ലേജുകളേയോ സംയോജിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഈ പാലം രണ്ടു സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളെയാണു സംയോജിപ്പിയ്ക്കുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ വളരെ പുരാതനകാലം മുതൽക്കു നിന്നുവരുന്ന ഈ പാലം ഇപ്പോൾ തക്കതായ രക്ഷയോ നോട്ടമോ ഇല്ലാതെയാണിരിയ്ക്കുന്നത്. അതിന്റെ കേടുപാടുകൾ നീക്കി തക്കതായ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ ഉടനടി വരുത്തിവയ്ക്കാത്തപക്ഷം അതു് ആപത്തിനുപോലും കാരണമായേയ്ക്കാവുന്ന ഒരു നിലയിലാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ നില്ക്കുന്നത്. ആ പാലത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് യാതൊരു സംഖ്യയും നീക്കിവച്ചു കാണാത്തതു ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ അലസതയേയും, ഭാവനാശക്തിയേയും, ശൂന്യതയേയും നിശ്ചയം വിളംബരം ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

സർ, ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ അടുത്തകാലത്തെ പ്രവൃത്തിപരിപാടിയിൽപെട്ട ഒരു പ്രധാന കാര്യമാണ് ആയുർവ്വേദ ചികിത്സാസമ്പ്രദായത്തിന്റെ പ്രോത്സാഹനം. ഒന്നാലോചിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആംഗ്ലേയ വൈദ്യത്തേക്കാൾ ആയുർവ്വേദത്തിന് ജനസാമാന്യത്തിനിടയിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഉണർവുചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിയ്ക്കുന്നതാണു്. എന്നാൽ ടി കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ അനുമോദിയ്ക്കുവാൻ വലിയ വഴിയൊന്നും കാണുന്നില്ല. തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരിലെ രാമവർമ്മ സെൻട്രൽ ആയുർവ്വേദ ആസ്പത്രിയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനം തീരെ തൃപ്തികരമല്ലതന്നെ. ടി ആസ്പത്രിയിലെ ഓണററി ഫിസിഷ്യനായി നിയമിയ്ക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ബ്രഹ്മശ്രീ വൈദ്യരത്നം തൈക്കാട്ട് മൂസ്സ് അവർകളുടെ വൈദ്യശാസ്ത്ര പാണ്ഡിത്യവും, യോഗ്യതകളും എന്തെല്ലാംതന്നെയായിരുന്നാലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സന്ദർശനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടോ, അതിനുവേണ്ടി ഇപ്പോൾ ചിലവുചെയ്യുവരുന്ന ഫീഫോക. യുടെ ചിലവുകൊണ്ടോ ടി ആസ്പത്രിക്കോ, ജനങ്ങൾക്കോ യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവും സിദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നില്ല. നേരെമറിച്ച് ഒരു വർഷത്തോളമായി അവിടെ സ്ഥിരമായവിധം പ്രവൃത്തിചെയ്യുവരുന്ന ഓണററി വൈദ്യന്മാർക്ക് സർക്കാരിൽനിന്നും യാതൊരു പ്രോത്സാഹനവും നൽകാതെ ദയാരഹിതം പെരുമാറിവരുന്നതു് പരിതാപകരമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയുമാണ്.

സർ, നിലനികുതിയിൽ 12½ ശതമാനം ഇളവ് ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ നിശ്ചയിച്ചുകാണുന്നതു് ആശ്വാസകരംതന്നെ. എന്നാൽ ഇതുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം കർഷകന്മാരുടെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടുകൾക്ക് ഒരു വലിയ ശമനം ഉണ്ടാകു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ന്നതല്ല. ഉൾനാടുകളിലുള്ള ദാരിദ്ര്യവും കഷ്ടപ്പാടും ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും മതിയായി ധരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ബഡ്ജറുകൊണ്ടു കാണുന്നില്ല. നൂറുക്ക് ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചുവീതമെങ്കിലും നികുതി ഇളവുചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. എന്നതന്നെയല്ലാണ്ടാം വിളവു നികുതിചുമത്തി വസൂലാക്കിവരുന്നതു് ദാരിദ്ര്യത്തിൽപെട്ട വലയുന്ന ഇന്നത്തെ കൃഷിക്കാക്ക് "ക്രനിന്മേൽ കുരു" എന്നപോലെ ആയിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനം തീരുന്നതുവരെയെങ്കിലും ഈ നികുതി നിറുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

സർ, ബഡ്ജറിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള നിരൂപണാവസരത്തിൽ രാജ്യത്തിൽ ആകമാനം ബാധിയ്ക്കുന്നതും, പ്രാധാന്യമേറിയതുമായ വിഷയങ്ങളെപറ്റി മാത്രമാണു സംസാരിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു് എന്ന സാമാന്യതത്വത്തെ വിസ്മരിയ്ക്കാതെ തന്നെ എൻെറ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെന്നല്ല കൊച്ചീ രാജ്യത്തിൽ ആകെത്തന്നെ അഭ്രതപൂർവ്വമായ വിധത്തിൽ ഉഗ്രമായ ഒരു തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു മത്സരത്തിൻെറ ഫലമായി ഒരുവിധത്തിൽ ചെറുതുരുത്തി നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൻെറ പ്രാതിനിദ്ധ്യം ലഭിയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഭാഗ്യമുണ്ടായ എനിയ്ക്ക് ടി നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ പ്രത്യേകമായ ചില ശോചനീയ സ്ഥിതികളെക്കുറിച്ചു രണ്ടു വാക്കെങ്കിലും പറയാതെ ഈ പ്രസംഗം സമാപ്തീകരിയ്ക്കുവാൻ മനസ്സുവരുന്നില്ല. ഇരുപതു വില്ലേജുകൾ അടങ്ങിയതായ ഈ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ ഒരു ഹൈസ്കൂൾപോലും ഇല്ല. അയൽ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലങ്ങളായ വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി, പഴയന്നൂർ, കുന്നംകുളം, പഴഞ്ഞി മുതലായ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലങ്ങളിൽ രണ്ടും ഒന്നും വീതം ഹൈസ്കൂളുകൾ ഉണ്ട്. ചെറുതുരുത്തി നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൻെറ ആവശ്യങ്ങളെ ഗവൺമെൻറിൻെറ മുമ്പാകെ സമർപ്പിയ്ക്കുവാൻ ആളുകൾ ഇല്ലാതെവന്നതുകൊണ്ടാണോ ഈ ശോച്യാവസ്ഥ, എന്നുകൂടി തോന്നിപ്പോകും. പ്രതിനിധി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നിട്ടും ഈ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൻെറ കായ്ക്കളൊന്നും കഴിഞ്ഞകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഈ മന്ദിരത്തിൽ നിവേദനം ചെയ്യുവാൻ ആരും ഉണ്ടാകാതെ വന്നതിൽ എനിയ്ക്കും, ഞാൻ പ്രതിനിധീകരിയ്ക്കുന്ന നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിനും, സാമാന്യേന നിരക്ഷരകുക്ഷികളായ അതിലെ നിരവധി നിവാസികൾക്കും വളരെ പരിതാപമുണ്ട്.

സർ, അടുത്ത കുറച്ചുകാലമായി കൊച്ചീ രാജ്യത്ത് വളരെ ഒച്ചപ്പാടുണ്ടാക്കീട്ടുള്ള ഒന്നാണ് ഓട്ടപാറ ചന്തക്കായ്ക്കം. വ്യക്തിവിദ്വേഷവും, മത്സരവും നമ്മുടെ പൊതുജീവികൾക്ക് ഏറ്റവും അനാശാസ്യമായ വിധത്തിലാണു പ്രവേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നുള്ള ഒരൊറ്റ വിഷയം മതിയായ സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അനേകകാലം സപ്രയത്നംകൊണ്ടും, മുറ്റാദകൊണ്ടും ജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിൽ ഒരു മതിപ്പും, വിശ്വാസവും സമ്പാദിച്ചതിൻെറ ഫലമായി വിജയകരമായവിധത്തിൽ അടയ്ക്ക

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

വ്യാപാരം ചെയ്യുവാനും, അതിൽനിന്നു നിസ്സാരമായ ലാഭം സമ്പാദിയ്ക്കുവാനും സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഒരാളാണു് ടി ചന്തയുടെ ഉടമസ്ഥൻ. അദ്ദേഹം നിരാക്ഷേപം അർഹിയ്ക്കുന്ന ഈ വിജയത്തിൽ അസൂയാലുക്കളായ ചില കുബുദ്ധികൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തീർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു മാത്രമാണു് ഈ ഒച്ചപ്പാടു്. ഗവൺമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു പ്രതിവർഷം നല്ലതായ ഒരു വരുമാനം ഈ ചന്തയിൽനിന്നും ലഭിയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്.

സർ, അവസാനമായി ഇന്നലെ മാന്യനായ പള്ളിപ്പുറം മെമ്പറുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ അടങ്ങീട്ടുള്ള ചില തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകളെ നീക്കം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് എൻെറ കടമയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. എൻെറ എതിരാളിയായിരുന്ന ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ അവർകൾക്കു കൂടിയ്ക്കുവാൻ വെള്ളംപോലും തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു ദിവസം ലഭിച്ചില്ല എന്നുള്ളതാണു് ആ പ്രസ്താവം. ആവശ്യത്തിനു വെള്ളംപോലും കിട്ടുവാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ള ഒരു നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥിയായി ചാടിക്കയറിവന്ന ഒരാളുടെ ആലോചനക്കുറവിനെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഞാൻ ഒന്നും പറയണമെന്നു വിചാരിയ്ക്കുന്നില്ല. അതല്ലാ എൻെറ വിഷയം. അപ്രകാരം ഒരു സംഭവം ചെറുതുരുത്തി നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ നടന്നിട്ടില്ല എന്നാണു്; ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽതന്നെ ആ കാര്യം ഈ മന്ദിരത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവയോഗ്യമാകുവാൻ മാത്രം ഗവൺമെൻറു് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ എന്തുചെയ്തു എന്നു് എനിയ്ക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിൽ തൻെറ വിജയം സംശയഗ്രസ്തമായ അവസരത്തിൽ എതിരാളികളും കൂട്ടുകാരും പറഞ്ഞുപരത്തിയ നിരവധി വ്യാജങ്ങളിൽ ഒന്നാണു് ഇതു്. എന്തെന്നു് ഇനിയും ആർക്കും മനസ്സിലായിട്ടില്ലാത്തതും, എന്നാൽ പലതവണയും പത്രങ്ങളിൽ എഴുതിക്കാണുക മാത്രം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതുമായ ഒരു ഗൂഢശക്തി തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിൽ എന്നെ സഹായിച്ചു എന്ന ഒരു അപവാദവും ഇക്കൂട്ടർ പറഞ്ഞുപരത്തീട്ടുണ്ടു്. വശ്യവചസ്സായ മുളങ്കുന്നത്തുകാവു മെമ്പറവർകൾ ഇന്നലത്തെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻെറ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ ഒരു ഗൂഢശക്തിയെക്കുറിച്ചു സൂചിപ്പിച്ചു കേൾക്കുകയുമുണ്ടായി. ഈ ആക്ഷേപങ്ങളിലും അപവാദങ്ങളിലും അന്തർഭവിച്ചിരിയ്ക്കുന്ന സൂചനകളെ ഞാൻ അവ അർഹിയ്ക്കുന്ന അപഹാസ്യതയോടുകൂടി മാത്രം വീക്ഷിയ്ക്കുന്നു. ചെറുതുരുത്തി നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ നടന്നുചെയ്തുവെന്നു പറയപ്പെടുന്ന വിധത്തിൽതന്നെയാണു് മറ്റു നിയോജകമണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലും ഗൂഢശക്തിയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനം ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു് എന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ ഇന്നത്തെ ചില പൊതുജനപ്രമാണികളുടെ ഭാവനാശക്തിയെ വാഴ്ത്തുവാൻ മാത്രമേ എനിയ്ക്കു തല്ക്കാലം തോന്നുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഒന്നു തീർച്ചയാണു്, ചെറുതുരുത്തി നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൽ എൻെറ വിജയത്തിനു കാരണമായി ഒരു ഗൂഢശക്തി പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു് എൻെറ എതിരാളികൾ നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായ ഒരു മരീചികമല്ല. നാലു കൊല്ലക്കാലം ഒരു നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിൻെറ പ്രീതിനിധ്യം വഹിച്ചു് നാലക്ഷരം ആ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിനുവേ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ണ്ടി ഈ മന്ദിരത്തിൽ ചിലവാക്കാത്തതിൽവച്ച് നാട്ടുകാക്ക് ജനിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വെറുപ്പിൽനിന്നും, പലിയ പ്രാപ്തനും, അത്യുച്ചങ്ങളായ രാഷ്ട്രീയ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിൽ കോവിദനും അല്ലെങ്കിൽ നാട്ടുകാരുടെ നാട്ടിന്റെ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ശ്രദ്ധാലുവായ എന്റെ സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥിത്വത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായ ആഹ്ലാദത്തിൽ നിന്നു സ്വയമേവ ജനിച്ചുണ്ടായതു മാത്രമാണ് ആ ഗ്രഡ്ശക്തി.

സർ, എന്റെ ചെപ്പ്രസംഗത്തെ സശ്രദ്ധം ശ്രവിച്ചതിന് അങ്ങയോട്ടും, ഈ സഭയോടും ഉള്ള എന്റെ അകൈതവമായ കൃതജ്ഞതയെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ വിരമിയ്ക്കുന്നു.

Mr. M. V. Cherian.—Mr. President, Sir, before I touch upon the general matters of the State and its advancement I shall in the first instance dilate upon the present needs of the Constituency I have the honour to represent in this Council. Mattancherry, Sir, has been called as the eye of the State, but I shall characterise her more appropriately as the milking cow of the State which gives all the milk she has to the State and which unfortunately receives very little in return for all that she gives and has given in the past. Every subscription list that is started in the State for any purpose whatsoever, either for internal use or for external contributions, has been headed by Mattancheri and at such times Mattancheri is prominently before the authorities concerned. As soon as you have got what you want, then even the existence of Mattancheri is forgotten.

Sir, it should have been well known to the Government that owing to the situation of the land in Mattancheri between the sea on the one side and the backwater on the other, constant pressure is brought to bear on the soil, and consequently in such soil no good water fit for human use would be available. It should have been therefore the elementary duty of the Government to have provided her with water when the Government made efforts to give Alwaye water to Ernakulam. The Government neglected her so completely that the question of giving her a good water supply had to wait till the Government gave her a voice in the affairs of the State when this Council was started ten years ago in 1925. In the very first year of the existence of this Council Mr. S. S. Koder, the first Member for Mattancheri, tabled a Resolution and that was unanimously passed to give Mattancheri water to drink and even though the Resolution was accepted by the Government they nevertheless treated her in their wonted manner and made no provision of any kind in the budget of the year following the acceptance of the Resolution, and but for the further agitation in this Council to throw out the D. P. W. Budget no provision would have found a place on

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the estimate of that year and thanks to the Council a provision of Rs. 20,000 was immediately added to the estimates tabled and the work tackled immediately afterwards. A small beginning was made to convey a little water and we were expecting the fulfilment of the promise made by the Government to provide our town with an adequte supply of water, but our fond wishes were again met with a characteristic indifference that the Government has uniformly displayed in the needs of our town. Not only is this the case, but we have been saddled with water-tax under Municipal Regulations at Government pressure and folks who cannot get a drop of this water have to pay the tax. This, I say, is an absolute injustice. The sorry sights we see at our hydrants where men and women folk struggle to pot the water, make us feel the neglect of our Government all the keener. Such state of affairs the Government has allowed to exist during the last nine years while they had a crore of rupees collected from the people of Cochin in their hands as cash balance. Sir, I most emphatically say that the prime needs of the people for water and their claims to have their thirst quenched, should have been a far more paramount importance than the costly white elephant schemes of Harbour and Railway developments which in the words of the Diwan's opening speech is a present financial loss which is not properly appreciated. Sir, while you have spent 117 lakhs of rupees for the promotion of a great trade route of modern times, which can in the first instance only enure for the benefit of the highly commercialised section of the world, you have done so by starving your own people and denying them of good water which is essential for the health and well being of the loyal subjects of His Highness. We would not have complained had the Government side by side alloted in the last nine years a total sum of 3 or 4 lakhs which would have come to between 30 and 40 thousand rupees a year for the benefit of drinking water of the most central commercial town of Mattancheri. While the Government went in for a loan of 75 lakhs for Harbour and Railway purposes and locked much of it at low rate of interest and imposed on this poor land of Cochin in these times of depression a new tax for paying interest and the creation of a sinking fund for redeeming the loan, the Government, I make bold to say, never considered even the feasibility of a Municipal loan guaranteed by the Government for the purpose of financing a water supply where such pressing necessity existed. This is the callous nature of all irresponsible Governments. Sir, may I also inform you that there are carping critics who maintain that the Government have started and organised the Barge system of supplying water not out of good intentions

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to supply Mattancheri with water but because the Government are forced to supply the ocean going Steamers that now come into the inner Harbour. I have no complaint to advance against the supply of water to the Steamers but I emphatically complain about the very inadequate supply of water in my Constituency. The main portion of the Income tax as long as the impost exists, will always come from my constituency as it does now and while you are paying the interest on the loan from this money, can you in fairness deny us the provision of the capital expenditure necessary to bring the water-pipes to the very door of our town. This would be only a very small *quid proquo* for the burden you have imposed upon Mattancheri by the Income-tax Regulation. Mattancheri shall certainly bear the burden of maintaining the system of distribution of water and to impose anything further than that, on her, would be unfair in my view. To heap taxes on any town particularly in these times of difficulties and wide-spread indebtedness, for allaying which a proclamation has been issued yesterday (the effect of which, I hope, will not stultify the good intentions with which it has been proclaimed) would indeed be unwelcome to all alike. It is not even a year since the house-tax in Mattancheri has been raised by 50 per cent and to raise it still further and make the water-tax 1 per cent more than the house-tax would be inappropriate and a measure open to legitimate adverse criticism and I hope the Government would be better advised. I leave the water question of Mattancheri at that.

The dire Educational and Medical needs of Mattancheri have already been brought to the notice of this House and the Government yesterday in the speech of the Honourable Member for Jews who also hails from our town. I therefore only endorse all his demands in that direction and sincerely trust that the Government will find means some-how or other to redeem their pledges in these matters.

Another matter of importance to my constituency will be the provision of cheap water-ways for the transport of produce in country-crafts which is the cheapest transport. Old canal ways are now lying as places for the breeding of mosquitoes to undermine the health of the town and the effluvia emanating form these canals by the accumulation of filth thrown into them should certainly engage the attention of the Director of Public Health and I hope he will make it an important item in his Inspection of the town under the new powers that the Government contemplate to bestow upon him. These canals if revived will promote the health and the economic welfare of the town and the rural parts connected with it. The canal, I may add,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Sir, which is a source of nuisance not only to Mattancheri but even to the neighbouring constituency of Pallaruthy, goes as far as Chellanom, the southernmost point of the Cochin State. This can also be made a source of revenue to the State if necessary.

I would also bring to the notice of the Government and particularly of the Chief Engineer who is in charge of the working of the Canal Regulation that great inconvenience is experienced at the landing places both at Mattancheri and at Ernakulam specially at ferry jetties and at times, owing to accumulation of silt, boats cannot land without difficulty. Dredging seems to be an absolute necessity and one wonders how the Canal officers who have their offices in the immediate vicinity, nay at the very landing places, have failed to move the authorities for the removal of silt to enable boats to land freely at all times. I hope I need not say anything further on the matter for the Engineering Department to do the needful. In this connection, Sir, may I also bring to your notice that while Ernakulam charges only two annas for landing boats at the fore-shore at the Canal jetties Mattancheri imposes four annas and the reason for the disparity in the rules is not understood. I hope the Hon'ble Member in charge will enlighten us in his reply. I may add that the burdens imposed by the Canal and Municipal Regulations press very heavily on the traffic that is carried on in the backwaters and that the time has come to give them some relief specially as, owing to unhealthy competition and multiplication of boats, the profitable nature of the industry is fast disappearing. I do not see, Sir, why people who have their own jetties and premises should be compelled to abandon them and be driven to the Government jetties and made to pay for the use of the latter. The rigour of any such rules, if it exists, should certainly be relaxed.

Having brought to the notice some of the needs of the constituency I would like to make a few observations on administrative and constitutional reforms, particularly as the Diwan has thought it fit to dwell upon them in opening this Council. That we should have an efficient Secretariat able to cope with the constitutional development adumbrated in the Diwan's opening speech does not admit of two opinions, but, Sir, in the Gazette extra-ordinary published on Monday, you state that hereafter all orders will be issued as orders of the Government and not as Diwan's Proceedings. May I tell you, Sir, that when Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya was Diwan he also introduced the word 'Government' in place of Diwan's Proceedings but, Sir, no one has been able to give a definition of the Government of Cochin and so far all questions put inside this Council

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

as to what constitute the Government of Cochin have elicited no definition of it from any of the official Members. Had you defined the Government of Cochin by an Act it would have gone a greater way to clarify the State Vocabulary and then the adoption of the new nomenclature would have been more justified and would have brought things more up-to-date. To pour new wine into old bottles or vice versa may not bring satisfactory results. The word "Government" is no-where defined in the Statute Book of Cochin and the introduction of it in the Proceedings, re-organising the Secretariat, seems to be another anomaly added to the list of such. I have no quarrel that this House has not been consulted or its counsels taken before the inauguration of the re-organisation of the Secretariat, but I am surprised that you, Sir, with all your anxiety to take the public into confidence even in matters such as the Harbour and Railway which, under the law as it stands are excluded form the purview of this Council, have failed to take note of the time-spirit which demands that the Diwan of Cochin should take this House into its confidence in all matters of administrative reforms. As regards the advisory committees referred to in your speech, may I add a few words? The usefulness or otherwise of these committees will depend upon the one vital point as to whether this advice is to be given to the head of the administration or to the head of the department. If it is to the head of the department, then, Sir, to my mind it would serve no useful purpose to take us further on the road to the realisation of responsible Government in easy stages. I would therefore respectfully observe that if His Highness wishes to make His people associate more and more with the Government, then, Sir, you have to give this advisory committees the final say in the matter before orders are passed by the Diwan or the Government.

Before closing my speech, I have to make an observation regarding the Mattancheri ferry that is connecting Cochin with Ernakulam. Yesterday, Sir, at about 4-30 or 5 o'clock, there was a heavy storm and not only the ferry boats but all the passenger boats plying in the backwaters were about to be capsized. As a matter of fact, a country craft (*thony*) capzised and 12 people were thrown into the water. If a motor tug had not come to their rescue those lives would have been lost. The school-children and other passengers who were passing through the ferry boat could not land anywhere because of the storm and with much difficulty the boat someway or other managed to land the passengers on the reclamation ground. I would state that in these stormy times, generally for 3 months, the passengers find it very difficult to cross the ferry. Because of the construction

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of the bund in a peculiar manner, the currents gain more and more strength and people have to make their travels in these boats with much anxiety. So, I would request Government to take note of the fact that at least a canal may be made between south of the reclamation and north of the Venduruthy Island, so that these boats during stromy times may ply through this canal. I perfectly know that there is a bund that is connecting the Dry Dock with the reclamation ground. Sir, for the safety of the people this bund will have to be cut open and a navigable canal made there. Otherwise, the lives of the people would be in danger. Yesterday, it was after two hours that the school-going children reached their homes. Their parents were very much anxious and some had even phoned to Ernakulam to see whether any help could be rendered to them. After all, no accident took place. I take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the House the fact that something should be done in this matter.

മിസ്റ്റർ ആർ. വിശ്വനാഥംചെട്ടിയാർ.—സർ, കൊച്ചീരാജ്യ ഭരണത്തെപ്പററി ഈ House ലെ Honourble Members ഇതേവരെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതിലധികം എനിക്കൊന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല. എന്നാൽ ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിനോട്ട പൊതുവായും നെമ്മാറയോട്ട പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ഗവൺമെൻറ് ഇപ്പോൾ എടുത്തുപോരുന്ന നയത്തെപററി എനിക്ക വളരെയെല്ലാം പറവാനുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ഫ്രഫ്രഫ-ാമാണ്ടിലേക്കുള്ള ആയവ്യയക്കണക്കിനെപ്പററി മാത്രം പൊതുവായ ഒരു നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യാനേ ഞാൻ ഇപ്പോൾ ആലോചിക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ. പ്രത്യേകമായി എനിക്ക പറയുവാനുള്ള സംഗതികളെല്ലാം ഓരോ വകുപ്പിനേയും വെവ്വേറെ എടുത്തു വിമർശനം ചെയ്യുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാമെന്ന കരുതി ഈ നിരൂപണം അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

ഒന്നാമതായി പറയുന്നതാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ കൊച്ചീ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ഏറവും കിഴക്കെ അററത്തെ മൂലയിൽ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ കാൽപ്പൊടിപോലും ഏൽക്കുവാൻ ഭാഗ്യമില്ലാതെ കിടക്കുന്നതും മറെറ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ മേധാവികളുടെ ക്ഷണപ്രഭാചഞ്ചലമെന്നപോലെ അല്പാതുള്ള അന്വേഷണത്തിനോ ദുരുദ്ദേശവിചിന്തനങ്ങൾക്കോ അധീനപ്പെടാതെ കിടക്കുന്നതുമായ ഈ ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിലെ നിവാസികളായ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളും അപേക്ഷകളും മുറവിളികളും കേവലം വനരോദനങ്ങൾ മാത്രമായി ശേഷിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടേ കണ്ടുവരുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഇതിലേക്ക ഉദാഹരണങ്ങളായി തെക്ക വടക്കും കിഴക്ക പടിഞ്ഞാറും സുമാർ ആറു നാഴികയിലധികം വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വിളയുന്ന സാധനങ്ങളെ കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനും മറും അവിടങ്ങളിൽ കുടിയിരുന്നു പാർത്തുവരുന്ന സുമാർ അയ്യായിരത്തിലധികം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒരു റോഡു

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ണ്ടാക്കി തരേണമെന്ന് എത്രയോ തവണകളിൽ പഞ്ചായത്തു വഴിക്കും ഇതിനു മുമ്പുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കും ഹർജികൾ ബോധിപ്പിച്ചതിന്ന് റോഡു ബോർഡിൽ നിശ്ചയിക്കുവാനാണ കല്പനയുണ്ടായതു്. റോഡു ബോർഡു് ടി സ്ഥലത്തു് ഒരു റോഡു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്ന് തീച്ചപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. ഇതേ മാതിരിതന്നെ കൃഷിരക്ഷക്കവേണ്ടി ഒരു സർവ്വേയർ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി തരണമെന്നും മേധാവികളോടു നേരിട്ടും ഹർജികൾമൂലവും അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

ഫ്രഫ്രഫ്ര-ാമാണ്ടിലേക്കുള്ള ബഡ്ജറു നോക്കിയതിൽ എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങൾ മറ്റുള്ള താലൂക്കിലെ ജനങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ പ്രജകളല്ലെന്നും കേവലം മൂറവിളിതന്നെ എന്നും തോന്നുന്നു. ബഡ്ജറിൽ എത്രയോ സംഖ്യ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തേക്കും അതിലെ നിവാസികളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിന്നും വിശേഷാൽ ചിലവുചെയ്യുവാൻ കാണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും നെമ്മാറ Constituency യിലേക്കു പ്രത്യേകമായി യാതൊരു പൈപോലും ചിലവുചെയ്യാൻ കാണിച്ചു ബഡ്ജറു മലിനപ്പെടുത്തുവാനോ അതുമൂലം കടലാസുപോലും നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുവാനോ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്നു തോന്നാഞ്ഞതു ഞങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടകാലമെന്നേ ഇപ്പോൾ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാൻ തോന്നുന്നുള്ളൂ. എന്നാൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥമേധാവികളെങ്കിലും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾക്കു വിവരം അറിയിച്ചു് ഞങ്ങളുടെ കഷ്ടനിവൃത്തിക്കു വേണ്ടതായ സംഖ്യ ചേർക്കാതെ ബഡ്ജറിൽ നമ്മില്ലാതാക്കിയതിൽ വളരെ വ്യസനിക്കുന്നു. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളെ നേരിട്ടറിഞ്ഞു് നിങ്ങളുടെ കാലത്തിൽതന്നെ നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടാക്കി തരുവാൻ വളരെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

യഥാർത്ഥം പറയുന്നതായാൽ മുതലെടുപ്പുകൊണ്ടോ ജനസംഖ്യകൊണ്ടോ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസംകൊണ്ടോ ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കു ബാക്കിയുള്ള താലൂക്കുകളിലുംവച്ചു് ഒട്ടുതന്നെ പിന്നണിയിൽ നില്ക്കുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ കൊച്ചി രാജ്യത്തിലെ നികുതിയെ ചിലവഴിക്കുന്നതിലോ ഗവമ്മെൻറിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതിലോ ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിനേയും ടി താലൂക്കിലെ നിവാസികളേയും മാത്രം ഗവമ്മെൻറു തീരെ വിസ്മരിച്ചുകളയുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ഒരു പരിതാപാവസ്ഥയെ ഇതിനുമുമ്പു പലേ അവസരങ്ങളിലും ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതുകൊണ്ടു തന്നെ ഒരു നിവാരണവും ഗവമ്മെൻറു ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നു വ്യസനപൂർവ്വം പ്രസ്താവിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ മഹിരാശിയിൽ തീപ്പെട്ട മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ കൃപാകടാക്ഷം ഒന്നുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രമല്ലെങ്കിൽ വെള്ളക്ഷാമത്തിന്നു കൗൺസിലിൽ നേടിയെന്നമ്മാറു പക്ഷിയിലെ മിക്ക മനുഷ്യരും പ്രായേണയും, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു് ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിലും വെള്ളം കിട്ടിക്കാതെ മരിച്ചുപോകുവാൻ സംഗതിയായേനെ. (ചിരി.) അതിരിടയാക്കാതെ സമൃദ്ധിയായി നല്ല വെള്ളമെ

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ങ്കിലും കടിച്ചു ജീവിപ്പാൻ സംഗതി വരുത്തിതന്ന ആ പൊന്നതിരുമേ നിയോടും പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും കൊച്ചി രാജകുടുംബത്തോടും പൊതുവായും ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള അകൈതവമായ നന്ദിയെ ഏറ്റവും ഭക്തിപുരസ്സരം ഇവിടെ സമർപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

കൊച്ചീ രാജ്യത്തിലെ നെല്ലറകളെ നിറക്കുന്നതു് മിക്കതും ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവൺമെൻറു തീരെ മറന്നും അവഗണിച്ചും പോയെന്നാണു തോന്നുന്നതു്. നെന്മാറ ഫക്കായിൽ കൃഷി ഒന്നുമാത്രമാണു പ്രധാനമായ തൊഴിലും ഉപജീവന മാർഗ്ഗവും. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ രണ്ടു പഞ്ചയും ഉണങ്ങിപ്പോയി. ഈ കൊല്ലത്തിലാണെങ്കിലൊ ഒന്നാം പഞ്ചയുടെ കാര്യംതന്നെ വളരെ സംശയത്തിലാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഓരോ കണ്ടത്തിലും ഇട്ട വിളവുകൾതന്നെ കേടുവന്നു പോയതിനാൽ രണ്ടും മൂന്നും പ്രാവശ്യം കൃഷിചെയ്തിട്ടുകൂടി പഞ്ച ഇപ്പോഴും ശരിയായിട്ടില്ല. കണ്ടങ്ങൾക്കു നടുവാൻപോലും വെള്ളമില്ലാതെ ഇപ്പോഴും തരിശായി കിടക്കുന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെയിരുന്നാലും ഗവൺമെൻറു ഭോഗം ഞങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കാതെയും നിവൃത്തിയില്ലത്രെ. ഈ വക സംഗതികളെയും മറ്റും പറ്റി പൂർണ്ണമായ വിവരണങ്ങൾ അതാതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ബഡ്ജറ്റു വിമർശനത്തിൽ പറയാവുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ ക്രുതലായി സംസാരിച്ചു് സമയം അധീകരിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല.

ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ വേനൽകാലത്തിൽ എൻെറ Constituency യിൽപെട്ട പട്ടഞ്ചേരി എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തേക്കു് ഒന്നു രണ്ടു പ്രാവശ്യം ഞാൻ പോകുകയുണ്ടായി. അവിടെയുള്ള വെള്ളത്താവളങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഓരോരുത്തരുടേയും സ്വന്തമായതിനാലും ചാൽവെള്ളമില്ലാത്തതിനാലും സകല ഏരിക്കളങ്ങളിലേയും വെള്ളം വെട്ടിത്തുറന്നു കൃഷിക്കുപയോഗപ്പെട്ടുത്തിയതിനാൽ ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തെങ്കിലും കൂളിപ്പാനുള്ള വെള്ളമില്ലെന്നു് അവർ എന്നോടു പറയുകയും എനിക്കു ദുഷ്ടാന്തപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തു. അവരുടെ കഷ്ടത്തെ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു ഗവൺമെൻറിനോടു് അറിയിക്കുവാൻ എന്നോടു പറഞ്ഞപ്രകാരം ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ ഇതാ അറിയിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. (ചിരി.) ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഗവൺമെൻറു ദയവായി ആലോചിച്ചു് ഇനിയത്തെ വേനൽക്കാലം വരുന്നതിനു മുമ്പായി അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു കൂളിക്കുവാൻ തക്ക വെള്ളത്താവളങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കിക്കൊടുക്കുവാൻ ഗവൺമെൻറിനോടു പ്രത്യേകം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി പറവാനുള്ളതു് ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കിലെ നിവാസികൾക്കു കിട്ടുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗ രീതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. ചിറ്റൂർ താലൂക്കു് കിഴക്കെ രാജ്യത്തിനു തൊട്ടാകയാൽ മിക്കപേരും തമിഴരാണു്. പലേ ജാതിക്കാരുമുണ്ടു്. ഉദ്യോഗത്തിനു തക്ക പഠിപ്പുണ്ടെങ്കിലും ചില തമിഴ ജാതിക്കാർക്കു് ഉദ്യോഗമേ കൊടുക്കാത്തതിൻെറ കാരണം എന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നില്ല. അവരാണെങ്കിൽ ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടുവാൻവേണ്ടി വളരെ ക

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

ഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടം നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടം മേലധികാരികളെ കാണുവാൻ വേണ്ടി തൃശ്ശൂർ, എറണാകുളം മുതലായടിക്കുകളിലേക്കു സാധാരണ പോകാറുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അധികവും കാണുവാൻ സാധിക്കാതെ തന്നെ മടങ്ങിവരാറുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങിനെ രണ്ടു മൂന്നു പ്രാവശ്യം നടന്നു ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിയതിനു ശേഷം ഹർജികൊം അയക്കും. ആയതിന്ന് സ്റ്റാമ്പില്ലെന്നും ഒഴിവില്ലെന്നും മറും മറുപടികൊം കിട്ടിയാലും പിന്നെയും ഹർജികൊം അയച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കും. ഒടുവിൽ 'Your name has been registered' എന്ന മറുപടി കിട്ടിയാൽ ഉദ്യോഗം ഇതാ കിട്ടുമെന്ന കരുതലോടുകൂടി കാത്തിരിക്കും. വല്ല ഒഴിവും വന്നാൽ അതിലേക്കു നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്ന ആൾ വേറെ ആയിരിക്കും. (ചിരി.) ഇതിന്റെ കാരണം അദ്ധ്യക്ഷനവർകൾ മനസ്സിരുത്തി ആലോചിച്ചാൽ അറിയാവുന്നതാണു്. ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് രണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ മാത്രമാണു്. അതിൽ ഒന്നാമതു് നെമ്മാറയിലുള്ള Primary Girl's School ഒരു ലോവർ സെക്കൻററിയാക്കി തരുന്നതിന്നും, അതുപ്രകാരം പട്ടഞ്ചേരിയിലുള്ള Primary School ഒരു Anglo-Vernacular School ആക്കി തരുവാനുമാണു്. രണ്ടാമതു് ഈയ്യിടെ Chief Medical Officer നെമ്മാറ ആസ്പത്രി പരിശോധനക്കുവന്ന സമയം ദൈവഗത്യാ ഞാനും അവിടെയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ആസ്പത്രിയുടെ ഉള്ളിൽ ദീനക്കാരെ കിടത്തുവാൻ മതിയാവാതെ, ആ സാധുരോഗികളെ പുറത്തു Verandah യിൽ കാറും വെയിലും തണുപ്പുംകൊണ്ടു കിടത്തിയിരുന്നു. ഈമാതിരി കഷ്ടങ്ങൾ ഉടനെ നിവൃത്തിച്ചു തരണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ 'What can I do! No funds' എന്നും മറും പറഞ്ഞു. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ ഒരു in-patient ward ഉണ്ടാക്കി തരുന്നതിന്നു് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

പഞ്ചായത്തു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു Health ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടു ചേർത്തതു വളരെ നല്ല കാര്യമാണെങ്കിലും ആയതു ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഉപകാരമായി തീരണമെങ്കിൽ അതിലെ സകല നടപടികളും Health ആഫീസരുടെ മേലനേഷണത്തിലും പഞ്ചായത്തിന്റെ കീഴിലും ആക്കിയാൽ മാത്രമേ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഉപകാരമായിരിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ എന്നാണു് എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു്.

ഞാൻ ഇത്രത്തോളം പറഞ്ഞതിൽ അല്പംപോലും അതിശയോക്തിയില്ല. ഞങ്ങളുടെ അപേക്ഷകളെല്ലാം നേരിട്ടുവന്നു കണ്ടാൽ മാത്രമേ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുകയുള്ളൂ. അതിനായി ഞാൻ എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിന്റെ പ്രതിനിധിയുടെ നിലക്കു് നമ്മുടെ പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ തിരുമനസ്സിലെ കൃപയുണ്ടായി. ഞങ്ങളുടെ നാട്ടിനെ അവിടത്തെ പാദരേണുക്കളാൽ പുണ്യമാക്കുവാൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി അവിടത്തെ മന്ത്രിപുംഗവനേയുംകൂടി ഞങ്ങളുടെ ഇരുട്ടടഞ്ഞ രാജ്യത്തേക്കു്, ഒരു ദർശനമാത്രമെങ്കിലുംകൊണ്ടു് വെളിച്ചം നൽകുവാൻ ക്ഷണിച്ചുംകൊണ്ടു് തൽക്കാലം വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. George Parakkal.—Mr. President, Sir, at the outset I thank the Government for the great boon that it has done the indebted public of Cochin in the matter of executions in civil courts. Though belated it is a most welcome boon to the desperate villagers and to say frankly this has given a chance for a good many respectable men to get out of their houses where they were in hiding for fear of civil warrants and this has afforded them breathing space to exert themselves to save their families from impending ruin. The country at large heaves a long sigh of relief and I thank the Diwan President for having advised His Highness' Government correctly in this matter.

Now speaking on the Budget I am constrained to say that this is the most depressing budget that we ever had for the last many years. The receipt side shows an increment of 8 lakhs of rupees which clearly indicates that the people have discharged their duty towards the State coffers though they are passing through a most bitter period, the like of which is not known in living memory. But I am sorry to say the Government has criminally failed in its duty to the people while balancing the budget in that it has neglected the people or has not cared to make provisions for anything that will be of utility to the public at large. The munificence of the Government is extravagant towards its offices and officers but those departments like the Public Works, Panchayat, Public Health and Medicine have received only a step motherly patronage in this Budget. Whereas the Government could find 17 lakhs of rupees for Public Works when their income was 91 lakhs of rupees it is a pity that the Government finds only 9 lakhs of rupees under this head for 1111 when they expect nearly 98 lakhs for that year. The contribution to Panchayat and Public Health is static. The increase in receipts and the difference of expenditure in the Public Works alone places at the disposal of the Government 14 lakhs of rupees in excess of the previous year's budget and when facts are such it is really depressing to note that the Government could not embark upon any of the ameliorative schemes that the Antony Committee so large-heartedly recommended. As a recompense the Finance Member's pious wish that the Government would have done something for diet, etc., if funds permitted is our only solace and in the absence of anything else let us be satisfied with these words of comforts as it is impossible for this House to remedy the matter otherwise.

Sir, the Government has always conceded that the bulk of their Revenue is realised from the villages and when such is the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

case it is a gross injustice to the villages that an utter disregard for the necessary amenities of life in the villages is evinced in this year's Budget. I am not making the remarks at random. If I take my constituency by far the most important requirement for the sea coast villages is good water to drink and bathe. When the Government has been kind enough to supply Alwaye water to Chellanam and other parts it is unforgivable that it has shut its eye to the near villages of Elankunnapuzha, Narakkal and Nayarambalam in this respect.

The health of the people in these seaboard villages is often unhealthy and these villages are hot beds of diseases throughout the year. It has also to be noted in this connection that these coastal villages are the most densely populated region in the whole of the State but with all that there is not a hospital over here. Though the Government of Cochin has conceded that the Narakal Dispensary with nearly 600 daily attendance deserve to be converted into a hospital it still remains a pious hope. At Vellarappilly during the monsoon season it is impossible for the people over there to get proper medical aid as the time of the only Sub-Assistant Surgeon there is almost taken up with his duties in the Royal establishment at Chowarah. This could have been obviated if a Sub-Assistant Surgeon is attached to the Royal establishment at Chowara during this period or a temporary hand also is appointed in the Vellarapilly hospital at about this time.

Schools. The only High School in my constituency is housed in a building handed over to the Government free of cost by the people of Narakkal 20 years ago. Since that time it is a pity that the Government has quite neglected the up-keep of this School and has not spent one pie on capital expenditure to provide necessary accomodation that is badly needed. The school has no compound walls and the flooring is completely ruined and in winter season the leakages are many as the tiling is so hopelessly damaged. I pray that the Government Member for Education would take kind note of this situation and immediately do something to improve this state of affairs. Vellarapilly is a detached portion in Cochin-Kanayannur surrounded on all sides by Travancore territories. It is composed of five villages and has a living population of over 30000 people. There is a Lower Secondary school there conducted by the authorities of the Kanjur Church. So for secondary education the people themselves have succeeded to provide. But they are not in a position to conduct a High School. Considering their peculiar situation and the distance from that place to the nearest

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schools of Ernakulam and Chalakudy I request the Government to open the three forms of the High School there as a Government school and thus fill up a long felt and imperative necessity. For a few years there will not be sufficient strength but considering the attending circumstances it is the duty of the Government to render this help to these poor villagers who are otherwise unable to give higher education to their children.

Irrigation. Both Narakkal and Vellarapilly are pre-eminently agricultural areas and as such the question of irrigation is of paramount concern to these villages. The Iyyathu Paramba Canal at Nayarambalam and the Appangat Canal at Narakkal are not budgetted for this year though they are absolutely necessary. I request the Government that these two canals are inevitable for proper drainage and productivity of the land and as such they may be opened this year itself if that could be afforded from the savings of this year's budget. Due to the unprecedented drought this year there was utter loss of the summer crop in the Vellarapilly villages. This could have been obviated if the Manapat chira in the Malayattur village is raised a little more and the water pumped to a higher level.

Communication. Neither on the seaboard villages of my constituency nor at Vellarapilly there are enough lanes. At Narakkal and Nayarambalam except for the Trunk road there are very few lanes. What ways the people have now have to be negotiated under easement rights. I request the Government's attention to this aspect of the question. At Vellarapilly two roads are absolutely essential one at Kizhakkumbhagam and another for about half a furlong in length at Thuruvinkara.

I thank the Government on behalf of my constituency for the 12½ per cent reduction in Revenue that it has afforded. But I make bold to assure the Government that considering the present situation this is a very meagre remission. A more substantial remission is needed. Next to food, fortunately or unfortunately for Cochin, educational expense has become an inevitable necessity. The educational expense now hangs heavy on the domestic budget of every family. A real heartburning it is for the parents when the 10th of every month comes. A remission of 50 per cent has at once to be given in school fees. It is doubtful whether the Government in the least feels the privation and the starvation which parents are put to, to give this fees. I request the Government that this aspect of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

question must be considered with utmost sympathy and forthwith a reduction of fees should be given. Our sister State of Travancore has already done this.

On account of heavy draught, the summer crops in the Vellarappilly Villages are completely lost and I pray that a general remission of 50 per cent be given to these poor people who have lost their whole in the bargain and are now starving in their houses.

Then, Sir, I draw the attention of the Government to its utter disregard of duty to the so-called unprivileged communities of this State. The public services of the State is monopolised by a privileged community and it is time that the portals are opened to the inadequately represented in the service of the State. The Christians, Ezhuvas, Muhammadans and the backward communities forming 10 lakhs out of the 12 lakhs of His Highness' subjects were crying hoarse for decades together for this legitimate privilege. The Council irrespective of caste and creed requested the Government through a resolution to inaugurate a Public Service Commission. More than once, the Secretary to the Diwan assured on the floors of this House that a Service Commission would at once be started. God alone knows whose is the interest or where is the deterrant hand. So long as adequate representation is not given there shall not be communal amity in this State. Travancore has already taken to it. In this connection I beg to draw the attention of the Government to the ramparts of the acting claims that have crept round almost all the departments due to the self-propitiating tendency of the heads of Departments. 92 per cent of such claimants are caste Hindus. Unless the Government ignore such claims it is difficult for decades to come for the outcastes to enter the services. In Travancore this is exactly what they have done.

Then I come to a subject that is of vital importance to the cocoanut growers of this State. I am very glad to state that our Government, especially the Diwan Peishkar, have been always trying to procure protection for our Cocoanut Industry from Ceylon competition. Unless a high wall of protective tariff imposed upon Ceylon import there is absolutely no chance for the cocoanut grower. As I have tabled a cut motion to this effect I shall be speaking more about this when occasion arises. But I wish to impress upon the Government even here that the cocoanut industry is undermined day by day. The one gist in Dr. Patel's report is that India is unable to meet the Indian

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

demands. There are vested interests in the Bombay Presidency who are out to favour Ceylon to our detriment. The Bombay and Karachi Mills want nearly 35000 tons of copra for working their mills for 265 days in the year. India according to Dr. Patel's calculation can supply only 28000 tons. This is due to a defective calculation and the fallacy of this has been completely exposed by us in the memorandum submitted by the Cocoanut Growers' Association to the adhoc committee of India Government to consider Ceylon Tariffs. But gradually due to the prolonged depression and the returns from the cocoanut being minus, no further money or labour are spent by the cocoanut growing areas for the up-keep of the gardens and as such the yield throughout is falling down rapidly. This is a catastrophe fraught with far reaching consequence to the Indian interest and this will make India dependant more and more upon Ceylon. The adhoc committee appointed by the Government of India to consider protection to cocoanut industry recommended a low tariff of 70 rupees per ton of copra and I understand that the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has accepted this proposal and recommended it to the India Government. But the Government of India has not taken any action so far. The activities of Ceylon and the opposition of certain vested interests in the Bombay Presidency seem to have brought about the inactivity of the Government. The Cocoanut Bill passed by the Ceylon Legislature has received the assent of the Governor and as a result intensive propaganda to expand the Indian market for Ceylon copra and oil will soon be started. It is proposed by the Ceylon Cocoanut Commission that 5 lakhs of rupees should be spent in this very year. The cocoanut industry in Ceylon is so well organised and so strongly supported by its Government that it can afford to take this aggressive policy. But owing to peculiar conditions Indian cocoanut industry is not in a position to defend itself unless it receives the strong support of the Government of Cochin, Travancore and the Central Government at Delhi. I am asked by the Cocoant Growers' Association to convey to the Diwan its thanks for having obtained an interview for them with Sir Zafrulla Khan, Member for Commerce, when he arrives here.

Sir, then I have to speak some words about the scheme of the Land Mortgage Bank. This was a long felt need and I must congratulate the Government for having taken the correct line. In an agricultural country like this an institution in the nature of a Land Mortgage Bank is an overdue necessity. An institution which can always command credit through deposit or otherwise

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

is needed for the permanent well being of the agriculturists. The loan scheme is a temporary alleviation of the situation by disbursement and leaves no scope for enduring redress. The same disbursement if made through a Land Mortgage Bank which has power to take in deposits, the benefit that such an institution would render to ease the situation will be effective and enduring. In the loan scheme, to-day you disburse the amount, and tomorrow start collecting that. But, Sir, the scheme of the Land Mortgage Bank under the present conditions is not an easy one. The depression is very acute and immediate relief is demanded. A Land Mortgage Bank on the Co-operative lines as is obtained in Madras is inconceivable at this juncture. The Cochin Government should at once start a Government-owned Land Mortgage Bank as distinguished from Government-aided or Government subvented. That alone can be of any utility and to strive for the other kinds of Banks will be mere wild goose-hunting.

Then, Sir, I have to point out that through sheer vagaries, our administration has grown highly top-heavy. It is urgent that we should at once embark upon a scheme of stanardisation of pay as is obtained in Travancore. Some of the Officers in our State draw far higher salary than an officer of equal standard would draw in Travancore under the new standardised scheme. This will appear ridiculous. Even otherwise, a standardisation of pay is necessary considering the fact that in this year's budget we are miserably handicapped for funds to develop the amenities of life in the villages. Sir, I also bring to the notice of the Government that the restoration of the pay cut that was once resorted to was and is an injustice to the tax payers of the State. The condition of the country has only worsened since the date of the imposition of the cut. Under the present purchasing power of the rupee it must be considered that the present officers are receiving 3 times their pay and the poor agriculturists that starve in their houses are paying 3 times more to the officers concerned. In this connection I beg to read an observation from the Civil and Military Gazette of India. "No other country has yet thought of restoring cuts. The emoluments and allowances of the Government servants even with 10 per cent cut are generally higher than those enjoyed by business and professional men but that is seldom appreciated by the Government servants whom the tax payer has to support". A pay cut is imperative and in equity it will be unjustifiable if the Government would not at once order a cut in the salaries and devote that sum for works budgetted for in the last budget but now given up for want of funds.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Lastly, sir, the administration in Cochin is one of propitiation. We will call it the propitiating policy. The Heads of Departments want to propitiate their own men, the Diwan wants to propitiate a few, and other quarters want to propitiate their own. Even in this propitiation policy, of late a very unhealthy spirit of bartering has crept into. Now the policy seems to be one of yielding two graces and obtaining one in return. Whatever that be, what with propitiation and bartering, the honest people in the middle are jammed, the claims of services are flouted and inequity prevails all around.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon.—Sir, my main object in rising to speak on this occasion is to impress upon Government the dire necessity for changing its policy towards the Municipalities in the matter of financial contribution. I have spoken about this matter to successive Diwans in the State and one of them frankly told me that if there is any such budgetery contribution, there will be stern opposition by non-officials representing rural areas and therefore the Diwan was reluctant to make such a provision. Therefore, my first appeal to those Honourable Members of this House is to bear with me for a moment, weigh the pros and cons of the reasonableness of my motion and support me in my claim for a recurring contribution by Government to all Municipalities in the State. You will find on a perusal of the budget for the Department of Public Health that a sum of Rs. 18,860 has been provided for all the Municipalities together towards the maintenance of roads. I want to caution you not to be deceived by this figure, as being in the nature of a contribution, which will affect the question I am raising to-day. Even if this is treated as an item of contribution, I desire to convince Honourable Members that the amount to which the Municipalities are entitled is much more than what is denoted by the paltry allotment for the maintenance of Trunk Roads. My point is that this is really no contribution at all and I shall instantly elucidate it in the course of my speech. To make Honourable Members understand the case for the Municipalities I may be permitted to observe that the population of the whole State is 12,05,016 and the Ernakulam town alone has a population of 36,638. The allotments for the Departments of Public Health and Panchayats for exclusive service in rural areas alone come to Rs. 3,59,434. By the simple process of division you will find that this works a ratio of expenditure per head of the population of the whole State at 4 annas 9 pies. Over and above this, you will be pleased to find from the budget that under Public Works, there is a provision of Rs. 22,586 for roads in rural parts making a total of Rs. 2,58,060/-.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Government is thus spending a very large amount for the maintenance of roads in non-Municipal areas and therefore the partial allotment for maintenance granted to Municipalities for repairing the Trunk Roads falls only in the category of grants made by the Government to maintenance of roads in rural areas. Therefore in considering the general policy of contribution, on which subject I am engaging the attention of this Honourable House, the provision of Rs. 18,860 referred to by me already, can have no relevancy or argumentative force. Both of these items may therefore be left out of consideration in the discussion of this question. When every head of the population is taxed to the tune of 4 annas 9 pies for running two of the Development Departments, the Panchayats and the Public Health for rural happiness, I humbly ask, whether it is not reasonable to demand of the Honourable Members that a like pittance out of the general revenues of the State should be given to the Municipalities as well? You will find that working out at the above ratio the Ernakulam Municipality is entitled per annum to Rupees 10,876—14—6, Trichur to Rupees 13554—11—6 and Cochin to Rupees 11,769—9—9. Ever since the year 1110, you may ransack the budgets, you will have the satisfaction to find no contributions by Government towards any of the Municipalities. We are following British Indian Laws and practices in almost all matters. If Government adopts the policy underlying the budgets of the Madras Government in the matter of financial contribution to Municipalities it will go a great way towards evolving a principle. There whenever a major work is to be carried out, half the amount is contributed by the Government and half by the Municipality. Here there is absolutely nothing of the kind, no settled principle at all. I would therefore strongly urge upon the Government the desirability of adumbrating a settled policy by which the Municipalities, especially those that stand in need of financial assistance, are given substantial contributions, for increasing, not any luxurious amenities, which there are hardly none at present, but for at least actual sanitary improvements which form the pillars of health of any town. I presume, the opposition of the non-official Members from the rural areas will be whittled down considerably by a proper appreciation of the sanitary problems which confront our Municipalities and the right of their citizens for a rateable share of the revenues of the State in partial alleviation of their financial inanity. It is often said that Municipalities must be self-reliant, self-supporting and self-contained. If an infant babe is thrown abroad, surely it cannot stand on its own legs.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

It needs parental care and attention to survive. All our Municipalities except probably Trichur, are subject to the inclemencies of financial storms. The common place question may also be asked as to why the resources of the Municipalities may not be augmented by increasing the taxes. I can at once answer that tax should be imposed or enhanced only when the taxing authority is satisfied that people who have to bear the burden have the capacity to shoulder it. It goes without saying that Ernakulam cannot stand the strain of an increased tax. Its people excepting those few high paid officers of Government are comparatively poor with a low standard of living. It is not an industrial town. The fluctuation of tax in the ascending order has therefore to be ruled out for the present. It was beautifully said by a famous English Orator that "to tax and to please no more than to love and be wise is not given to man". Ernakulam Municipality would have courted a little displeasure by advocating increase of taxation with the belief that the displeasure consequent on it may be evanescent and not lasting, if a semblance of justification existed to advocate such a course. I feel satisfied, with the little experience I have gained, that it will be cruel to embark on such a questionable adventure. The only remedy therefore is for Government to visualise the situation and do what is right by handsome contributions to Municipalities, emboldened by the experiences of the past, exigencies of the present and expediency for the future.

Towns are inevitable and rural areas are inevitable too. Towns are equal bulwarks of State Revenues. In the matter of tobacco sales the amounts fetched in towns are far greater than those from the rural areas. In the matter of ferry collections also the amounts are larger. Income-Tax is derived from towns. Government is receiving a decent sum as contribution on account of consumption of petrol in towns. Where is all this money utilised? Till this day not a single pie of the petrol contribution from the Government of India has been given to any of the Municipalities as their quota though some important Trunk Roads are under their jurisdiction and control. These are no mean sources of revenue. The Municipalities have never grumbled at measures tending to improve the happiness of the rural population. It will be denial of justice if Hon'ble Members from the rural constituencies do not support us in this matter.

All Government buildings are taxable under the Municipal Regulation in British India. Even Railway Stations are subject

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to such taxation. The reverse is the case here. We are not allowed to do it in spite of our passionate imitation of British Indian Laws and methods. You need not be surprised if in the near future a laboured piece of legislation is sprung upon the Municipalities by which certain persons are exempted from all Municipal taxes including even Property Tax though Government would not forego with equal grace, land revenue or other charges from them. For Government, "example is" not "better than precept". Is loss of prestige involved only in submission to Municipal taxation? It is then only a plain negation of sovereign powers very guardedly delegated to self-governing bodies to tax its citizens. More competent men like Messrs. V. D. Ouseph and P. Krishna Menon have persistently pressed before this House, for a change of the policy of Government's indifference towards Municipalities and yet there has been no change. They continue to be treated as "illegitimate children" who are denied the rights of maintenance from the father's exchequer. I have dwelt on this subject only to convince Honourable Members representing rural constituencies that when those representing Municipal towns come here and ask for a small contribution from Government, the disregarded claim is founded on legitimate rights and not on an appeal for alms.

Sir, I wish to touch upon certain other questions which arise from the general discussions. The first is with regard to the Electric Scheme. I wonder why Government is not anxious to run the Electric Scheme themselves. It can be well-organised and conducted only by Government. The scheme is potentially attractive and fruitful of benefits to the entire State, industrial and pecuniary. My point is only this. Our income is stationary. Expenditure is on the increase. It transcends any graduated scale. The day when we can expect more than 20 to 25 lakhs from the Harbour is rather remote. The completion of the fourth stage with its attendant complications is not going to vitally increase this estimate as the percentage of return is very low. The State must therefore tap other sources of income to cater to its expanding needs. Industrialisation will be materially accelerated by electrification. Unemployment will be minimised though only to a trifling extent. The scheme is not going to be a failure, if Government will undertake it. If in spite of the alluring prospects, Government pretend to be scared away from the project, the next alternative proposal that I have is to request Government to leave the supply of electric power to the Municipalities. Pallivasal will supply power in bulk to Ernakulam and Trichur. At any rate Sitaram Mills can generate for Trichur and a strengthened Power House in the College

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

can supply for Ernakulam. It is not a sound business proposition from the point of view of supplier and consumer to have separate Thermal Stations for the two towns. The Notification published by Government is defective. Without any guarantee of being able to secure license, no Company can be formed or registered with the required capital. I have to impress upon the House that it will be against the vital and fundamental interests of each and every Citizen of the State if this electric license is snatched away by any foreign Company. (Hear, Hear).

There appears to be another proposal in its embryonic stage to convert the Ernakulam Water Works into a partnership concern between the British and Cochin Governments and the Harbour Board administration. Such a proposal is fraught with the gravest danger to the people of Ernakulam and Mattancherry. The local Municipal Council has protested against the proposal but of what avail that protest is I cannot comprehend. We shall have only a third control in the fixation of rates of supply if the proposal fructifies. If there happens to be a larger demand for the Harbour which has to be made attractive as a Port of call, domestic supply will be prejudiced. In any case this State must be able to face the problem of Harbour supply. Want of capital to strengthen and enlarge the Head-Works at Chowerah is a myth. The extra expenditure on this account can be recouped in no time. A gift by the Abdicated Maharajah is not convertible by a stroke of the pen into such a partnership to the detriment of the donees. Government have to resist and repel the proposal.

I agree with the Honourable Member for Ezhavas (South) in thinking that recruitment to Public Service must be based on settled and systematised principles. A definite set of rules regulating recruitment by Heads of Departments appear to me, quite necessary. Mr. Ayyappan said before this House yesterday that the idea of a 'Public Service Commission' may be dropped. I too think that something which gathers opposition hangs round the idea of a 'Public Service Commission'. What is really wanted is only a proper distribution of the appointments among all classes of His Highness' subjects. Lack of such rules may often be an inducement for some to have an unreal, yet an eternal complaint, that their claims are ignored. That is a political device incapable of detection for want of definite rules. The matter has to be expeditiously handled by Government and justice done to all communities without sacrificing efficiency of service on which alone can a good Government be butressed. There is already a complaint by the Caste-Hindus that their claims to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

fresh appointments as well as promotions in Service are unduly prejudiced by preferment of Communal Candidates. When this is the feeling, it is opportune to bring into existence a workable system of rules and instructions which will restore and preserve harmony and concord among the several communities in the State among whom the scramble for appointments is going on. In this connection I also wish to refer to what is known as 'distance pollution'. Of course, this Council has raised this subject on more occasions than one. It is a shame for enlightened Hindu Society to observe or support such a custom which is an anachronism. Our Maharajas freely invite Pulayas and others subjected to the odium of "distance pollution" and orthodox Caste-Hindus mingle with them, sit by their side and without any feeling of sentimental pollution, partake of what is served on the common table. All this is mightily done. But there lurks somewhere in the Caste-Hindu-fold a conservative spirit impervious to reason and sound progress. Its existence is suicidal. It is sounding the death-knell of the Hindu Religion which has survived through ages. The conservatives can purify themselves at home by bathing any number of times. Nobody objects to that. Let the theory and practice of distance pollution in public places be done away with. The King's Highway is the property not only of all mankind but of all creation. Prove to the world at large that we are not narrowed down by the antiquated customs of yore and pray for a Royal Proclamation abolishing 'distance pollution' in the State. (Hear, Hear).

One other point, Sir, and I have done. Apart from schemes, legislative measures and offer of loans to agriculturists as temporary palliatives for combating depression, some concession, imposed by legislation, in the nature of remission of interest above six per cent on the accumulated arrears of interest, from the accepted date of the depression, will alone be a real relief to the ryot without offence to the creditor who is in no way responsible for this exceptional economic privation. All other measures only postpone his Doomsday.

With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. P. J. Alexander.—Sir, In spite of the semi-apologetic tones in which the Honourable Finance Member himself has reviewed the budget, I believe he deserves to be congratulated upon his success in having presented us with a prosperity budget. For, leaving out the very many items of public utility works of emergent importance left unprovided for, it being often the free opinion of the Government and not the degree of emergency that is the hallmark for provision in the budget, we have the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

satisfaction, on the Finance Member's words, that all reasonable demands for the efficient working of the several departments and for the carrying on of their beneficial activities which are, for want of a better epithet perhaps, designated as innumerable, have been provided for, with a decent reservation of well nigh three quarters of a lakh against a rainy day. Granted that the current receipts of the State are of a static nature, Government having to face facts and work with given situations, it would be unfair to expect of them anything better.

But I shall not be far wrong in asserting that the given situations in which Government have the satisfaction of having framed one of the best of their budgets—"meeting within our State our own needs as best as possible and maintaining outside the State, the credit of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja, in the most un-impeachable manner"—do not commend themselves with equal agreeableness to the governed. We had the preliminary assurance that signs are not wanting that the great economic blizzard has greatly disappeared. The signs of disappearance, visible but to the practised eye of the Government may be there and the assurance does serve well to enhance the theatrical effect of the 12½ per cent remission of the land tax. But on the part of the ignored masses that constitute the bulk of His Highness' most devoted subjects, the most intense suffering coupled with the experience that not a bit of it has been alleviated, except by their own inevitably adapating themselves to their hard lot, is there, and I must say that some of the recently imposed taxes falling very hardly upon the poor peasantry, are but throwing them from the smoke to the smother. The land owners have at least the 12½ per cent remissions, for which though the country at large is grudged the benefits of very many Public Works; but the poor are being taxed and worried even in the matter of their daily hard-earned scanty bread. In an agricultural country like ours, there is no reason why there should be so much of suffering. Even during the famine conditions that prevailed in the post-war days and during the great floods, there has certainly been not so much of suffering. In those days when the budgetary receipts of the State were much lower than now, the Government found means to open relief works that served their double purpose with temporary and permanent results. But under our more advanced conditions it is a pity the Government seem to have neither the inclination nor the leisure, nor even the large-heartedness and the imagination to realise the value or utility of such schemes. At least a remission of the new taxes would be a welcome relief to the suffering people. However, for their generosity in having

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

provided for an increase in expenditure last year chiefly due to the large refunds that had to be made in the course of the year past owing to excess collections of the income tax, I cannot help complimenting the Government while also wondering whether the old Roman system of farming out even the direct taxes is still resorted to by modern Governments occasionally, leaving the taxpayer at the mercy of the tax gatherer.

At the dawn of a new administration, under the guidance of a statesman of international repute, we are on the eve of great changes and innovations just a small dose of which was served upon us as perextraordinary gazette on last Monday. The matter had become more or less public even earlier and the people have been all anxiety to welcome the new scheme of rectifying the over centralised system of our Government. But as always happens realisation fell short of expectation and in this instance more than usually. It is surprising, Sir, that the new scheme, which, while it escaped this House in its process of manufacture, leaves us practically untouched in its working, though for that matter, we ought to be thankful that we are allowed to continue existence. It is to be doubted under these circumstances whether our Legislature as it now stands is not a superfluous, ornamental appendage to the Government to be put on or put off as their fancy decides. We are sure, Sir, that you are in no way responsible for this unconstitutional measure which, considering your notable non-official antecedents in your legislative career, you must have sternly discountenanced, so that we entertain no misgivings whatever, that you, Sir, as the revered President of this Council, would do the needful at least to avoid the repetition of such wrongs in the future, by imposing adequate checks upon the classical, arbitrary powers of that supreme bureaucrat in our State, the Diwan.

Coming again to the Budget, I am sorry for the signal ill luck of my constituency. For, apart from the allotment of Rs. 7,200 for water supply to Chellanom, a fabulous amount of full twenty five rupees for the maintenance of no less than five bunds for the benefit of over 400 acres of paddy fields in Kumbalangy and a few other ordinary allotments not always commensurate with the actual requirements specified and to that extent wasteful, there is nothing which has commended itself to government as a reasonable avenue of expenditure in the Palluruthy constituency.

The sea erosions in Mundanvelli, Andikaddavu, Chellanam and other places is a matter of serious grievance to the people which has come to the notice of the Government more times than one. Vast areas of first rate yielding lands and many

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

homes are every year washed away and the ever narrowing strip of land left is not likely to survive a decade more, unless something be done in the matter forthwith. Government once promised to construct a few groynes experimentally and it appears an estimate of Rs. 6,200 was made. But nothing having been done so far and nothing being likely to be done in the year following also, we are led to suspect the bonafides of the Government promise.

Means of communication are nothing but deplorable throughout the Palluruthy constituency, so much so that the people there are practically isolated between places within local borders. Some of the most densely peopled areas of the State are to be found here, where people are engaged in active trade. But improper means of communication render trade unremunerative and inconsistent. People of the Rameswaram Village petitioned repeatedly to the Government for the opening of a channel through Kapyakulam to Pandarachira, which if done would soon make Palluruthy as busy a commercial centre as Mattancherry with better prospects, the like of which we have at Alleppey in Travancore, and would also afford facilities for cheaper, easier and safer communication for people lying to the southernmost extremities of the State about twelve miles away. Govt. was once pleased to favour and agree to fulfil the project, which estimates roughly to about half a lakh of rupees; but of late they seem to get somewhat irritated at the peoples' requests. In the island of Venduruthy lying between the two up-to-date towns of our State there is the picture of the rudest anachronism upon Civic or rural progress and there is hardly a half mile length of road with uniform width of six feet. For Kumbalangi a road was sanctioned and work begun about 5 years ago and about a furlong length at the northern end was metalled and there the matter seems to have ended. But the thin coating of stones first applied, being washed away by early rains and no repairs being undertaken, this famous road is literally bristling with pointed difficulties which the poor pedestrian avoids by improvising roads of his own across hedges and along private compounds, thereby establishing easement rights for the increase of the means of communication. There is a channel called the തൊട. Nattuthodu which was very serviceable for irrigation as well as for transport and communication but owing to the helpless state of neglect it has been subject to for years together, it now serves only to breed disease germs on its stagnant waters.

Coming to rural sanitation the situation is still worse. I would only request the Health Director to find out a way to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

construct at least a few public latrines in the congested areas, without which no amount of hookworm compaigning will be of any avail.

People in Mundanvelli and Manachery are obliged to drink, if they drink water at all, brackish water, even which they are at great pains to have during the hot season. I found their tanks during the last summer all swept clean, ready to receive water only when the rains broke out.

The grant-in-aid dispensary at Kumbalangy where there are more than four times the people in Kandakadavu, where the only Government dispensary in the constituency is run in a rented building, should be supplied with more medicines and the doctor in charge provided with a better allowance, till it is converted into a hospital which is a necessity for the place.

It is no use elaborating on these lines. But I beg to ask, if expenses for the above works are not reasonable what else can be? If Government cannot find funds for these it should be because funds are diverted in other channels. The readiness with which Rs. 25,000 is allotted for electrification of the towns is an instance in point. I think it is time that even this inversion of the economic policy of good old Robinhood be stopped and a principle framed whereby a fixed proportion of the revenue yielded by anyone revenue area be utilised to meet the pressing public needs there.

The state of things that I have presented about my Constituency holds good with perhaps local variations throughout the State where rural life is in a very unhealthy condition. These are days when the question of rural reconstruction has assumed prominence. The British Indian Government have allotted a crore of rupees for rural reconstruction while Mahatma Gandhi is devoting his full attention to it. We in Cochin, however, are quite ahead of all other parts of India in this matter, where they may well take us as a model for imitation with profit. But the problem of rural reconstruction has not been solved by us. Nay more, it is in spite of the much we have done, quite as pressing for us as for any one else.

The real defect in rural conditions lie in the fact that as Professor Ganguly says "on conditions of life fundamentally different from the west has been superimposed a highly developed system of an alien mechanism of trade and commerce. This has seriously affected the roots of organic community life in the country. The sense of corporate life dominating

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

self-contained rural communities was gradually undermined by the influence of a strong centralised Government". I think it is St. Nihal Singh who in the course of a tour in Mysore a few years back, remarked that the Indian villager has been deprived of so much of the sense of his own individuality and civic and political consciousness that the only means he is aware of to redress his grievances is to knock about with petitions at the doors of Government officers.

Our Government deserves special credit in having pitched upon the right thing in any successful scheme of rural organisation—I mean the Panchayat. The Panchayat we know is an institution which has an abiding place in the socio-economic structure of India and the palmy days of this glorious institution under that august sovereign who founded, consolidated and ruled for the benefit of the ruled, a mighty Empire in India 3,000 years ago witnessed the story of the brightest chapters in the golden era of Indian History. Emperor Chandragupta wanted his Panchayats to be responsible in looking after the entire irrigation and communications in the Empire, trade and commerce, inland and foreign, police and army, as well as in exercising a vigilant espionage upon his very efficient and well-tried staff of Government servants.

From our Budget it is seen that at present our Panchayats are looking after rural roads and canals, sanitation and conservancy, water supply for farms, as well as Vaidyasalas and Panchayat Courts. Thus they do immense good to the people all over the State outside towns, and for this Government have our heartfelt thanks. But the most important thing without which the Panchayats cannot be regarded as living organisms in the corporate entity of the State is that they should be made into local organisations in which people should have a hand in the Government of their country—at least of their own village. The true import of rural reconstruction is the providing of amenities for a healthy village life, with the consciousness of the villager being an integral part of the body politic.

Much as our Government deserves the thanks and praise of people in and outside for the good work in this line done so far, I think a change is a welcome necessity. At present the department of Village Panchayats along with those of Public Health, Medicine, Agriculture, Co-operation, Education and Labour not to mention Revenue and Police, are engaged in the work of our rural reconstruction. As is but obvious in this arrangement, there is no unity of purpose, nor co-ordination of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

activities, with the result that there is considerable waste of energy and public funds, as well as overlapping of interests, conspiring to leave the poor peasant as well as his rural problems as they were.

Now, let us devise an agency to co-ordinate all these activities of these various departments in essential features, and focus them effectively upon our rural parts. Of all these departments, we find in the Panchayat Department, a considerable number of non-official, disinterested workers. Taking the 87 panchayats now in vogue in one or other of which our 283 villages are duly represented we get a veritable army of rural workers, who are at present preserved only as passive agencies to suggest works which may or may not be approved by the little bureaucrat above their heads. But with such mediums at our disposal it will be possible to transform them into efficient rural welfare centres which can always work as agencies on the spot to direct and control the activities of the Government in its various departments. For example if a murder were to have been committed anywhere in a village, the welfare agency on the spot would be better able to unearth the crime and spot the real culprits with reliable evidence, than the Police who when they reach the place as now, full day after the fair, the real culprits will have escaped and sources of true untutored evidence blocked.

The scope of such an agency or welfare centre is unlimited. The work they have to do is very delicate and at the same time burdened with big responsibilities. It surely depends upon the educational status and standard of life of the people of a village that this work is properly discharged. And when the auspices favourable for such a state of affairs are provided for, it is certain that persons of talent and character, education and merit, would be forthcoming to man the Panchayats or welfare centres as the case may be, in the best interests of the village and the villager, as well as of the larger interests of the Government and the State.

And when it is noted that all this co-ordination of activities, efficiency of work, and improvement of affairs can be managed without an additional pie of expense, I am sure any right-minded Government cannot but be willing and ready to avail itself of the benefits of such a state of things. Indeed the efficiency of such a rural reconstruction centre varies inversely with the area of its action, and by its means we can combine the benefits of all departments without any of their customary evils, when such centres are established. I believe this will serve as

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the first store in the strong foundation of a true responsible Govt. which would ensure the best interests of the governed.

(At this stage the Diwan President took the Chair.)

This done, our agriculturists require but two things to attain to a state of practical prosperity. Fresh water is indeed a problem that racks the brains of our agriculturists and the Government. But there are I am told schemes in the archives of the Government wherein the possibility of procuring all the water required for us from Peringalkuttu or Athirappilly or elsewhere are practicably worked out. Giving effect to any such and providing also facilities for plenty of agricultural credit for which I would recommend the starting of a bank on the model of the Egyptian Agricultural Bank, in addition to the Land Mortgage Bank for which our thanks attend upon you, Sir, I am sure you shall leave Cochin in an all round prosperous state for which your name would be remembered by Cochinites for generations to come.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, on behalf of myself and my constituency I beg to convey to His Highness the Maharaja and to you, Sir, our sincere thanks for the fine sentiments and words of hope contained in Hiss Highness' message and your speech. But I would be failing in my duty if I do not at the same time express frankly that they fall very much short of our expectations. You tell us, Sir, that with the high intellectual attainments and the standard of Education and literacy that prevails in the state we need have no apprehension about our fate if we chose to throw in our lot with our countrymen by joining the Indian Federation. But I ask are we masters in our own home? If we are not really masters in our own home, what will be our position among the elected representatives of comparatively more free people? British India is going to have Provincial Autonomy in a few days. But what is our position here? We have no right of appropriation of one pie out of a total of about a crore of rupees. More than half of this one crore is non-votable. Without the other half the administration of the State will come to a standstill and the Government can by a stroke of its pen restore it in case we refuse to grant them. Under the present constitution we have only the right of asking questions and moving resolutions requesting the Government to do this or that. But even there our hands are tied pretty tightly. We cannot ask any question or move resolutions on questions of such vital importance as Railway, Harbour, Palace, and the provisions of the Legislative Council

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Regulation. Large amounts are spent on the Railway and Harbour. Iron materials worth lakhs of rupees used for the old Railway are stored in the Cheruthuruthy Station, exposed to the sun and rain. To a casual observer they appear to be no man's property. The conversion work was over some ten months back. When I attempted to get some information about them, you, Sir, ruled me out of order day before yesterday. In a moment of weakness we spend tons of money and energy to get elected to this Council with the fond hope that we may be able to do something for the country. But this is the position where we find ourselves in.

Sir, I think the Government themselves should feel the awkwardness of the situation. I am sure, Sir, that you who had been taking an active part in the political agitations in British India for getting Swaraj must be laughing in your sleeves at the fate of this toy parliament of ours. It is probably impelled by a sense of that awkwardness that the Government proposes to appoint Advisory Committees with a view to give the representatives of the people greater opportunities of coming into closer contact with the details of the administrative machinery. No doubt, an insight into the working of the administration may dispel wrong notions and temper irresponsible criticism.

But after all, its functions are only advisory. Its success depends entirely upon the powers that you are going to give to it, the rules you frame for its working and sympathy and broadmindedness of the official members who happen to be chosen to the Committees. Personally I have very little hopes of the latter. I propose to speak more about it when I come to deal with the Public Services. For the present I content myself by saying that I look at these so called reforms as the sugar coating of the Fourth Legislative Council.

From what I have said above it will be clear that the prosperity and happiness of all classes of His Highness' subjects, which is so dear to His Highness' heart, depends not so much upon the co-operation of the chosen representatives of the people in this Council as upon the efficiency and integrity of the Public Services over which we have little or no power. Let us therefore turn our attention to that subject for a moment and see where we are.

There is a general decline in the efficiency, tone and *morale* of the Public Services in the State. We have been noting it for the last ten years. Many causes have contributed

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to it, the most important of it being the rise and growth of a new caste in the public services — I mean the appointment of members of the Royal Family and persons related to them and their dependants and parasites. At first it appeared quite innocent and the public tolerated it without knowing the full extent of its potentialities for mischief. But before long we found that this was frought with disastrous results. Persons who under normal circumstances would have found it difficult to get a place in the lower rungs of the ladder find themselves on one fine morning on the top. Persons who could not get the post of lecturers and Assistant Surgeons suddenly become Heads of Departments. The origin, evolutiou and the development of the Department of Public Health is an instance in point.

In places where we could have expected men of ripe experience, sound judgment and calm temper, we find young inexperienced youths without any broad outlook and sympathy and accessible only to their scycophants. Places occupied by men of broad out-look, resourcefulness, amiability, and accessibility to the public are occupied by these men. No wonder if they find these places dizzy and lose their heads. On account of frequent changes and adjustments to satisfy the requirements of this new caste which has come into power and the frequent changes in administrative heads, a continuity of policy has become an impossibility in the State. These young men are given the maximum pay from the start itself. Endowed with power which by temperament and ability they are unable to wield properly, enjoying protection for all that they do from the power behind them, though technically governed by all the laws, these young demigods behave most lawlessly. They strut the length and breadth of the country with an air of "I am the monarch of all I survey", indulge in such dangerous pastimes as Election to the Legislative Council, damn the hopes and aspirations of hardworking men in the services and although fail to command respect from their subordinates on account of their dependence upon them for carrying on the administration, become a terror to other Heads of Departments. They sometimes create parties in the services, disloyalty among subordinates, and all sorts of anomalies in the public service. These young and inexperienced men are straight-away appointed over the heads of others overlooking their legitimate claims. They are confirmed and some are given the maximum from the start while others of proved ability and honesty are allowed only their minimum and their confirmations kept pending indefi-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Allowances for extra work done and provided in the budget are not disbursed and the provision itself disappears in the revised budget although no final orders are passed in the matter. Extra allowances for the normal work are given retrospective effect although no provision is made for same in the budget. Handsome honorarium is provided for those whose full services or the services of better qualified men can be got for a lesser amount. Persons under recommendations for punishments and possessing lesser qualifications are promoted. Honest, hard-working and better qualified officers who are recommended for promotions are persecuted and driven out of service. The Head of a Department asks for the services of a particular man in whom he has confidence but he is given one whom he does not want at all. One directly recruited from the bar and who has done meritorious services to the State as Head of various Departments for eight or nine years is not given a pension because of the rigidity of the pension rules, but one enjoying a handsome pension was reentertained for two and odd years and given a handsome amount as a second pension. Efficiency is sacrificed at the altar of favouritism. The service is seething with discontent. New posts are created to find rooms for favourites and getting rid of those whom they think undesirable. New allowances and honorariums are devised for favourites. Sir, it is my painful duty to tell you that the Government as at present constituted and manned does not command the respect and awe they used to in previous years. The people outside are fast losing faith in the administration. In fact they are fed up with the repression and tyranny of this invisible force. May we hope that you will put your foot firm on this state of affairs, do justice to the persecuted and restore confidence and hope in the services.

Now coming to the budget proper I wish to say a few words. If anything, it is a rich man's budget. Ample provision is made for carrying on the administration as usual. Sufficient funds are also provided for supplying the ameneties of the important towns of Ernakulam and Trichur in the shape of town halls etc. No doubt it is a balanced budget so far as it goes, but no attempt has been made to balance the deficit budgets of more than eighty per cent of the families in the villages. There is no programme for the improvement of the miserable condition of the masses; no definite scheme of rural reconstruction. The published reports of the economic survey reveals staggering figures of the grinding poverty of the masses. The report recommends specific remedial measures. The Hon'ble Member for Education does not seem to have read the report itself.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

When I moved resolutions calculated to improve and revive specific cottage industries such as hand spinning and weaving the Honourable Member used to tell me that those industries are not suited to all places. But when specific recommendations are made about specific industries as being suited to particular areas, in a masterly report by one of their own officers, the Hon'ble Member says—"Please wait. Let us get the report of all places". When are we to get them? No one knows. The official agency has already taken 1½ years for publishing reports of 2 villages. It is expected to publish the rest relating to 9 villages in six months. The work of the remaining 270 and odd villages will be handed over to a part-time non-official agency. No, Sir, this sort of fighting shy of important questions will not do. It is one of the most vital questions of the day. The unemployment among labourers is increasing day by day. We see the ranks of the beggars being filled by more and more able bodied beggars. We have no time to lose. It has become a menace to the very peace and security of the country. I hope that the Government will give their immediate attention to it. The agriculturists are thankful to His Highness' Government for the temporary relief afforded to them by the Proclamation. The disbursing of the loan of 5 lakhs and the opening of the land mortgage bank will be of help to some agriculturists. But I may at once assure the House that these remedial measures, however good they may be, in themselves, will not be able to touch the fringe of the problem. Organising work among them, enabling them to increase their output of wealth is the only safe and standing remedy for combating the difficulties caused by the cataclysmal fall in the value of the agricultural commodities.

One of the saddest features of this year's budget is the decreased provision for the most of the nation-building departments.

The co-operative societies, if properly worked, can relieve the economic distress to a very great extent. If they have a programme of organising agriculture and industrial societies, the department would justify its existence and continuance. It is very sad to note that the provision made for this department is less than last year.

Same also is the case of Agricultural Department. The maintenance of a Central Farm is no doubt good in its own way. But attention should be given to carry on demonstrations which will enable the agriculturist to obtain better out-turn with the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

same amount of labour and at the same cost. No increase of fund is provided for carrying on these demonstrations. The aim of the department should be to carry the results of the experiments carried on in their laboratories to the very door of the ryots. There should be at least one demonstration centre in every village until our agriculturist absorbs the latest development in the science of agriculture.

The grant for the developments have been exaggerated by the Hon'ble Finance Member. The slight increase in the Department is mainly for the staff of the marketing scheme. We have not been told as to what they have done so far. The so-called enhanced allotment under irrigation, sanitation and water-supply is only very meagre. The following are the figures.

Irrigation	1988
Sanitation	635
Water-supply	1193
Total	3816.

But as against this it may be remembered that there is a clear decrease to the extent of Rs. 8121 under the head communications in Panchayat and over Rs. 50,000 for irrigation under Public Works.

Under the Medical Department the provision for dietary charges, bedding and clothing is much less than last year. There is a slight increase in the Ayurvedic Department but it is not for the purchase of medicine or for providing for accommodation which the Hospital very badly requires but it is for giving honorarium at the rate of Rs. 100 per mensem for a post which the Government is contemplating to create and it will not be far wrong when I say it is intended more to provide for one of their favourites than providing for the ailing public. More of this when I move the motion for the omission of this grant which I have tabled on this subject.

The Hon'ble Finance Member after providing sumptuously for the services and knowing the limitations of this Council very complacently asks towards the end of his speech, 'Is it possible to frame a more satisfactory budget?' An emphatic no, from the stand-point of a beaurocrat and an equally emphatic yes, from the stand point of the people. I do not propose to frame a budget of my own because I know that the Government is not going to change one figure in the printed budget. But I shall indicate the lines on which I will frame it. By a process of retrenchment

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and standardisation of pay of the heads of Deptrtments I can easily make a saving of Rs. 50,000. I will cut the pay of officers in an equitable way until the period of economic depression is over and make an average saving of 10 per cent in the salary. The palace expense is assuming alarming proportions and threaten to make violent disturbances to the equilibrium of the budget every 12 years. I will, with the gracious permission of the Princes, delay the giving effect to the revision of allowances for a few years until at least we pass the acute distress prevailing in the country and create a fund on the principle of the sinking fund and contribute Rs. 75,000 or so, every year. The extra expenditure over 5 lakhs of rupees will be met from that fund. From these and other ways I can easily make a saving of 5 to 6 lakhs of rupees which I will spend on a five year plan of national village Reconstruction Scheme mainly on the lines suggested in the Economic Survey Report.

Before concluding I wish to submit that if during the course of my speech I have caused pain to the feelings of any body, I am extremely sorry for it. I may assure them that it was not done wantonly. I have no quarrel to the giving of appointments to any body if they otherwise deserve it and if they behave like other people as public servants and not as public masters. I feel that I am doing a service to them as well as to the Government when I candidly speak out what the public at large think of the recent performances of these officers.

Sir, I am not blaming any body. There is nothing unnatural in it. The only sure remedy is the grant of responsible Government to the people. The executive must be made responsible to the chosen representatives of the people. I can think of no other man better suited by temperament and past antecedents than you, Sir, to advise His Highness the Maharaja to give us this grant.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Mr. President Sir, let me, at the outset, on behalf of my humble self and on behalf of Government express our sense of great indebtedness to the Hon'ble Members of this House for the very valuable suggestions offered by them during the last two days by way of general criticism on the budget. I would also take this opportunity of congratulating Hon'ble Members individually on the very high level of debate maintained by them during the discussion on the budget. I may assure Hon'ble Members of this House that every one of the representations brought forward by them will be duly taken to the notice of Government and will receive that consideration which every representation of this House is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

entitled to. Sir, I do not intend to deal with the whole range of subjects touched upon by Hon'ble Members in their general discussions. My Hon'ble colleagues who will follow me will deal with the subjects pertaining to their own departments. I shall, however, confine myself with making a few remarks on two particular subjects, namely, the recent Proclamation promulgated by His Highness the Maharaja for the relief of agriculturists and the question of framing rules for direct recruitment to the public service.

I refer to the first subject because an observation was made by the Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas that the recommendations of the Antony Committee were not properly implemented by Government and were not given that consideration which was due to them. I had the good fortune of serving on that Committee along with the Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas. That Committee consisted of a very strong personnel of 10 members representing various interests. Its conclusions were not unanimous but divergent. The only unanimous conclusion that the committee arrived at is contained in paragraphs 15 and 16 of that report. In short, they were of opinion that any legislation to relieve the agriculturists would only be temporary palliatives, and that more substantial relief measures were required for affording credit facilities in the shape of long term loans by the establishment of a Land Mortgage Bank. This was also the unanimous opinion of the agriculturists in the coastal tracts who were more hit by the depression than the agriculturists in other places of the State. I distinctly remember that this idea of a Land Mortgage Bank was definitely formulated in a memorandum submitted by the President of the Ryots' Relief Committee in Narakkal. What they wanted was not legislation but facilities for long term credit. Provided facilities for repayment of debts were created for them, they were sure of inducing their creditors to forego a substantial portion of their debts. What they wanted was easy loans repayable in easy instalments at a low rate of interest. Now, a Land Mortgage Bank necessarily takes some time to inaugurate and the Committee therefore recommended that the original loan of Rs. 5 lakhs recommended for the temporary relief of agriculturists by the Darbar should be expanded to Rs. 20 lakhs and they also suggested the conditions on which such loans might be disbursed to agriculturists. Yesterday I heard a complaint about the conditions attached to these loans. I might remind Hon'ble Members that the recommendation in the Antony Committee Report was that money might

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

be advanced only to the extent of two-thirds of the value of the property. Government however have increased the amount to 75 per cent of the value of the property. I say that more could not have been done by the Government in that direction. Even here I should say that Government have taken considerable risk, having regard to prevailing conditions. Seeing that the special loan scheme started on the recommendation of this committee is not working quite satisfactorily on account of circumstances already referred to in the opening speech of the President, a temporary respite to the agriculturists was found necessary to prevent a condition of things arising which would become irretrievable before the remedy was provided for them by the establishment of a Land Mortgage Bank.

Another suggestion made by some of the Hon'ble Members was that without a drastic scaling down of debts this temporary respite or suspension of execution of decrees would not only be inadequate but quite purposeless. I remember that the suggestion to scale down debts was brought before this House sometime ago. The Government then observed it was not possible to adopt such drastic steps until similar action was taken by other Governments, as Cochin was not a self-contained unit, economically and financially. Let me remind Hon'ble Members how this question of agricultural indebtedness has been tackled by other governments, viz., the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and other Indian States like Mysore, Travancore and Pudukottah. Compared with what has been done by other Governments, I may say that we might well congratulate ourselves. We have been the earliest to cut the first sod in the field of agricultural relief. The Government of India thought that the question of agricultural relief was purely a local one, and it was to a large extent dependent on local conditions. They left it, therefore, to the Provinces to decide as to what action was necessary. They were unable to devise a comprehensive scheme which would be applicable to the whole of India. The inter-Provincial Economic Conference called by the Government of India came to the conclusion that the only satisfactory remedy to tide over the difficulties was the establishment of the Land Mortgage Banks which would afford long-term loans to agriculturists on low rates of interest repayable by easy instalments. Any other form of reliefs they thought, would result in the dislocation of the economic equilibrium. The Government of Madras have appointed a special officer, Mr. W. R. S. Satynathan, I. C. S., to enquire into the question of agricultural indebtedness. He is expected

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to submit his report soon. Now it is rather curious that every other Government has been asking the Cochin Government as to how we are tackling this problem of agricultural indebtedness. I was asking the Diwan the other day to get for our perusal a copy of Mr. Satynathan's report, and a few hours afterwards, I found that Mr. Satyanathan had asked Mr. Herbert to send him a copy of the Antony Committee's Report for his information. When we concluded our deliberations on the committee, a Member of the Puddkottah Council wrote to me for a copy of our Report. We are therefore in a position to congratulate ourselves that we have been first in the field in initiating or inaugurating measures for the relief of agricultural indebtedness.

With regard to the question of cutting down of debts, Hon'ble Members will themselves see that it is attended to with very serious consequences. Sir, day before yesterday, you pointed out how this would disturb the mechanism of credit. This aspect of the case has been very strongly emphasised, in the speech of Sir Malcolm Hailey, Governor of the United Provinces, when His Excellency remitted the United Provinces Agriculturist Relief Bill for reconsideration by the Legislative Council. With your permission, Sir, I shall read two paragraphs from the speech of that most distinguished member of the Indian Civil Service.

His Excellency said:—

"Further, we must see here that our ideas are not unduly swayed by the strength of our feeling for those whose interests are mainly affected by this question. I spent the most important years of my official life in circumstances which gave me a very strong attachment to those who live on the land and I feel their difficulties almost as deeply as I should feel my own. I am addressing a Legislature which has among its members a large representation of the community on which accumulated debt presses most hardly. But for the moment, we must, all of us, treat this question as impersonally as possible. We can none of us hope for complete detachment. But our attempt must be to approach it with what detachment we can mainly as a problem in the economics of credit".

Let me read to you another part of the speech also.

"It is a case which has demanded the gravest thought for if, in attempting to relieve the indebtedness of one class, we undercut the general operation of credit we may cause mischief the full extent of which, we can none of us forsee. I

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

know fully and feel deeply the biting harassment which the recent fall in incomes from land and in the capital value of the land has caused to agricultural debtors. I sympathise sincerely with any effort to reduce their anxiety and I would go far to prevent disappointment to those who have looked to us for assistance. But there are factors which will be unswerving in their operation, and will not be deflected by the strength of our own inclinations. We may cut down debt by legislation, but if we are too sweeping in the scope and show insufficient discrimination in the manner of our action, we cannot by legislation restore the movement of capital; yet it is clear that agriculture wll be as dependent on the flow of capital in the future as it has been in the past. Again, this is legislation affecting property, for secured debts at all events must be ranked as property; and if legislation unduly considers the interests of one class of property holders, the immediate gain promised to them may prove to be shortlived, and they may find that they have sown precedents for legislation regarding property rights from which they may have to reap an unwelcome harvest hereafter. Let me add a personal word, since it is in my personal capacity that I have to ask you to reconsider certain parts of the Relief Bill. It would be easy to obey a first inclination, and to seek goodwill for myself by refraining from asking you to reconsider these clauses of the bill. That goodwill would be a very pleasant memory to me. But it is not I, but those who need and those who supply agricultural capital, who will have to face the consequences which I honestly believe that these clauses may involve".

The case against the scaling down of debts could not have been stated more sympathetically.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—Was not the majority of the Antony Committee in favour of the reduction of interest?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Iyer.—Probably yes; I never said anything about interest. I was dealing with the point stressed by some members for the drastic reduction of debts as a whole. In this connection, I may also refer to a leading article in the 'Hindu' of the 20th August 1934 which contains an impartial summing up of the recommendations of the Antony Committee Report. The conclusion that is reached is that the only way of affording substantial relief is by establishing a Land Mortgage Bank.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether the Hon'ble the Secretary is aware of the fact that the Serbian Government has adopted this measure?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. T. S. Narayana Iyer.—I am aware not merely of the measures adopted by the Serbian Government, but also by the Governments of Roumania and Jugoslavia with disastrous results. Ever since I had occasion to deal with this subject, I have read a good deal of literature about this. As the time at my disposal is very limited, I don't wish to refer to the other aspects of this question.

The only other point that I wish to touch on is in regard to rules for recruitment to the public service. I may state for the information of the House that the declared policy of Government is, consistently with efficiency and the rules as to disciplinary jurisdiction, to give equal opportunities for all subjects of His Highness the Maharaja to associate themselves increasingly in the administration of the State. It is not the name which matters. I noticed that some of the members who spoke on the subject were not particular about the organisation of a public service commission as such. In fact, the object in view could be achieved in various other ways. We are already insisting on the practice of submitting quarterly caste-war statements of appointments made by Heads of Departments. In that connection, I may add a personal note. I am much obliged to the Hon'ble Member of South Ezhuras for the admonition which he intended for my guidance or edification. I do not resent it. I appreciate the spirit which lay behind his statement and I may assure the Hon'ble Member that there will be no room for apprehension on that score.

Only one more remark, Sir. I wish to remove, if I can, any misapprehension in the minds of Hon'ble Members which might have been caused by certain observations made by the Hon'ble Member for Nellayi, in his speech on the Budget. The Hon'ble Member remarked that it was due solely to the troubles created by the Director of Public Health that an enquiry was started against Dr. A. R. Menon, Municipal Chairman of Trichur. I may assure the House that this is an absolutely unwarranted statement. The Director of Public Health was in no way responsible for the enquiry. The enquiry was started on representations made to Government by certain leading citizens of Trichur alleging serious irregularities in the Municipal administration of Trichur. A special audit was thereupon ordered to be conducted and it was upon irregularities noticed in that report that further action was subsequently taken. How this matter has now terminated is known to every Member of this House. I only wish to say that the Director of Public Health

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

was not at all responsible either for the commencement of the enquiry or the way in which it was concluded.

I thank Hon'ble Members for the great courtesy and patience with which they have listened to me.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, I join with the Hon'ble the Leader of the House in congratulating the Hon'ble Members on the other side of the House for the great excellence and the general high level of their speeches.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—On a point of order, Sir. May I know, Sir, who is the Leader of the House?

Mr. President.—The Hon'ble the Secretary to Government is the Leader of the House.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—We have sometimes been hit hard but we realise that behind the back of all criticism, they are actuated by the same ideal as that which actuates us, and that is serving the interests of the country. I should have very much liked to have begun my speech with the economic depression because that has been in the forefront of the discussions that took place in the House. But as the ground has been traversed to a very great extent by my friend the Leader of the House, I will just begin from where he has left. The Hon'ble Member for Vyttila has emphasised the general necessity of the Government probing a little further into the causes which have led to the depression. In his opinion it was not quite sufficient that we rest content with palliative measures but that an attempt should be made to find out what is the cause of the depression. Government realise the justice of the remark and the necessity for an exploration of all possible avenues for finding out the causes of the depression. But it seems to me, Sir, that our first attempt should be to offer battle to the depression on all fronts, to find out a vulnerable point. I may here refer the Hon'ble Members to the opening speech of the President to see what all measures, Government have in contemplation. A reference was made to the reduction of the rate of interest payable by the debtors. In connection with the special loan scheme, I had occasion to examine the various rates prevailing in the various parts of the country. It has convinced me that our rates are on the whole smaller than those in other countries. The rates in Bhavanagar and other places are very high and they range from 30 to 40 and even to 70 per cent as the Leader assures me. But here the rate is very low. The necessity for a reduction existed there because there was a class of persons, professional moneylenders who exacted high rates of interest. There is no such

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

class here. It is true, Sir, that I had to turn down a large number of applications for loans. But all these were rejected not on the ground of insufficiency of security alone but some, on account of the uncertainty of the tenure and the non-production of documents. I say therefore that there is every justification as the Leader of the House pointed out to tackle this problem by less dangerous and more useful measures like the establishment of a Land Mortgage Bank.

As to the organisation of cottage industries, introducing improved methods of agriculture, manuring, marketing &c. all these are engaging the attention of the Government and I may assure the House that the Heads of Departments have been asked to report upon the particular cottage industries etc. that have been referred to prominently in the Economic survey report.

I now pass on to the one remark made here yesterday that the Gazette which was circulated here containing the result of reorganisation of the Huzur Secretariat was an intrusion into the vested rights of this House. I had the privilege of taking part in that Committee and I would warn the House against great danger of a summary judgment being passed on insufficient materials. What exactly has been done is only this. Certain powers which are vested in the Diwan and are of a routine nature, are delegated to Heads of Departments. The Diwan thought that instead of his being obliged to waste his time by looking into matters of routine, these powers could be safely delegated to Heads of Departments. Certain powers are also delegated to the Secretary. But in all these matters care has been taken to see that central control and co-ordination are not sacrificed. That is all what has been done by the reorganisation of the Secretariat. Under these circumstances I fail to see how there is an intrusion into the powers and privileges of the House.

Now I shall turn to the question of adult franchise. Now there is no dispute that this is the ideal. As was pointed out in the Lady Member's speech the exercise of adult franchise is the exercise of civic right which should engage the serious attention of the Government only after a civic consciousness had been fully developed. Government had that view in mind, but there were practical difficulties in the way of attaining this all of a sudden and therefore Government thought that it would be more appropriate to extend the franchise by lowering the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

property qualification and to leave adult franchise to be realised progressively.

Another complaint levelled against the Government was that Government officials took part in the recent elections. I can boldly say that this is not the general policy of any Government including the Government of Cochin. It is not the Government's policy to instigate mal-practices in election. So far no specific charge against any individual has been brought to the notice of the Government. If any specific instance is brought before the Government, that will always receive the earnest and serious attention of the Government.

Now I shall pass on to the topic of irrigation. It is true that there is good deal of complaint against the Government in this matter. The problem is dear to the hearts of the Members. It is dear to the heart of Government, but the only difficulty is the absence of water. The Hon'ble Member for Mulakunnathukavu referred to the recommendations of the Kole Committee. I must state here that the recommendations of the Committee were conflicting. There was unanimity only on one point and that is the diversion of the Chalakkudy river. There is a diversity of opinion on the other schemes. If the kole owners want to store water it is opposed by the puncha cultivators and any proposal to mitigate the hardship of puncha cultivators is similarly opposed by the Kole owners. The Chalakkudi diversion scheme is thought to be useful and it has seen engaging the serious attention of the Government ever since 1926 and if they have not been able to accomplish it it is due to difficulties beyond the control of Government. The problem is interstatal and riparian rights between States are likely to be involved. All that can be done will be done without the least delay.

Now I have done with all the general remarks. Since my Hon'ble friend the Director of Public Health is not going to take part in the reply of the Government to the general discussion on the budget I shall say a few words with regard to the levy of taxes on the rural industries by the Health Department and the issue of licenses. It is contended that all these are iniquitous imposts. Speaking on behalf of the Government I must say that these taxes are very low when compared with similar taxes in neighbouring countries and the Sister State of Travancore. If the license fee levied is proved to be exorbitant to any extent the government would be prepared to consider the question of reduction. But at the same time I must say,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Sir, that there is not much force in objecting to this tax on principle because there is a larger principle involved here namely the preservation of the health of the country.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, I crave your indulgence to permit me to speak a few words at this stage of the Council's Proceedings which is allotted for the General Discussion of the Budget. I have listened with great attention to the able speeches made by the Non-official Members and my object in rising to speak now is to contribute what I can to the discussion on several points which have a direct bearing on the activities covered by the Public Works Department.

Meeting as we do after the phenomenal drought of the last agricultural season, the subject which presents itself as the most important is certainly 'irrigation'. The kole lands of the Trichur Taluk comprising about 16,000 acres is probably the largest single block of land in Cochin which has been notably affected. The Government and the public alike have been giving their earnest attention to the subject of introducing a satisfactory system of irrigation in this area for a long time. Several schemes have been devised and the most popular one is what is known as the Chalakudy River diversion project. Had this Chalakudy river been situated entirely in the Cochin territory the scheme would have been in operation many years ago. The scheme costs comparatively very little and its beneficial results are far-reaching. It will serve not only to irrigate the Trichur kole lands but also the Puncha lands in the Muriyad and Murkand lakes besides converting thousands of acres of parambas into double-crop lands. But unfortunately it is necessary to get the co-operation of the Travancore Government before the scheme could be actually started. We have been in touch with the Travancore authorities on this subject and I am glad to be able to inform the House that a definite step forward has been taken. A joint guaging of the river by the two Governments has been ordered and arrangements have been made to start this work. I feel confident that the various points for decision on this question will shortly be settled. I feel therefore justified in stating that no reasonable charge of callousness to the needs of irrigation of this area can be successfully laid on the Government. I may also state that till this scheme comes into operation the only method to prevent drought will be to resort to Kuttadan cultivation over a portion of the area. If the high level puncha lands to an extent of about 5,000 acres come under Kuttadan cultivation, drought can be avoided in all normal years. The truth of this

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

statement will be apparent when I mention that there were no complaints about drought in the kole lands for the past eight years.

I have also been devoting considerable attention on the question of diversion of the other rivers of the State. My irrigation staff has worked out a scheme of working the Kallayi River near Trichur and it is before the Government at the present moment.

Similarly an extensive survey is now being made for the diversion of the Cheerakuli river in the Talappilly Taluk. The results have not yet been completely known but it is evident to us that it is one of great promise. It is my intention in the coming year to work out the complete details of the Pothundy irrigation scheme in Nemmara.

We have also been devoting our earnest attention to questions of flood prevention of the Karuvannur River. The Inchamudy Canal which figures in the second stage of our programme has been practically completed this year. The work will prove to be of immense benefit to the people of Karlam and the adjoining villages.

Turning now to the question of communications, I may say that we have been paying considerable attention on maintenance of the existing roads. The quality of our road surface has materially improved in spite of our poor allotments and the great increase in traffic. New construction works have also been done to a very large extent and I have this year opened more than 20 miles of road for traffic. Requisitions for new roads still come in, of course, and most of them are very necessary. But we have got to embark on road constructions with the full knowledge of the limitations imposed by funds and also its effect on the future recurring expenditure. The Member for Vyttila touched on the necessity for opening a road in the Maradu Village. Healso suggested that the money now put down in the Budget for the Kadavanthara Road work may be utilised for it if there is any unspent balance. This is a good suggestion and I shall make recommendations to the Government on those lines.

Next in importance to irrigation and communication, is the subject of domestic water supply. The Member for Trichur dwelt on the necessity for bringing water from the Chalakudi river to Trichur for this purpose. I would earnestly request

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the Member to wait till we come to a definite understandiug with tne Travancore Government for the diversion of the Chalakudy River. Forif the river is diverted we shall be getting additional quantity of water to Karuvannur where we can install our pumping station. The distance to be covered by pipes then will be only less than 9 miles against 18 if the supply has to be taken directly from the Chalakudi River. The decreased length in the pipe lines will for the same expenditure give a larger supply of water. In the meanwhile Government have ordered me to continue the scheme I had already started in Trichur. Next year we shall be having more wells probably in a different area and this will materially increase the supply to the town. Even as it is, it is not one to be despised. We have been supplying during the last dry season a quantity of more than 90,000 gallons per day. The consumption in Ernakulam last year was only on an average of about 3·2 lakhs of gallon per day. This means that in Trichur we have been supplying almost 1/4 the quantity which was consumed in Ernakulam where the water works were expending for the past 25 years. I may assure this House that every effort will be made to put the water supply question in Trichur on a satisfactory footing before long.

For Mattancherry, Government have fairly decided to adopt my recommendation of putting up a pipe line across the backwater even in case the combined Road Rail Bridge of the Harbour does not materialise in the near future. Government however would require the Municipality to contribute a portion of the expenditure.

I have now fairly touched on the salient points of the programme of work of my Department raised by the Hon'ble Members during this budget discussion but before I resume my seat, I would like to say a few words on a matter on which I fear there is some amount of mis-apprehension in the minds of the public. This is the question of the Electrification of the State. The Diwan in his opening speech has told us why it is advisable to postpone the Hydro-Electric Project of the State for the time being. In its place, the present proposal is to have two independent stations one to serve the Ernakulam area and the other the Trichur area. The Government have in a Notification called for tenders from Companies to take up this work of Electrification. We hope that suitable Companies will be found in Cochin to take up this important work but if such Companies are not forthcoming, the Government will seriously consider the question of getting the work done themselves.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Anyway the Government is most anxious to introduce Electricity in these areas as soon as possible.

Mr. I. N. Menon.— Mr. President, Sir:— The points of controversy which had been raised in the course of the lengthy speeches on the general features of the budget have been touched upon and fairly answered by the Hon'ble the Leader of the House, the Revenue Member and the Member for Engineering, so that what remains for me is with regard to the criticisms brought forward against the Education Department proper. I doubt if it is either necessary or expedient to dwell at length on these points at this stage for the simple reason that these points are identical with those points that are going to be raised in connection with the cut motions. It will, no doubt, be a duplication of argument; but, I do not wish to shirk the duty of placing before the House my view point on which there appears to be a slight misapprehension. As the Hon'ble the President pointed out it is probably due to want of publicity on matters of urgent public importance.

I have the misfortune of being the head of a branch of administration which occupies a quasi-technical and a quasi non-technical position in the estimation of the public. Education is in one sense the duty and task of experts, I mean Education as a science or art, at the same time Education is a task for all. My effort this afternoon will be to answer one or two points raised in the general discussion. If I remember right the several points which were raised and touched upon and discussed as regards Education were that (1) there is a phenomenal increase in the budget expenditure on Education, (2) that this increase is not necessary or in other words that it is the result of wastage and that this wastage can be done away with if we adopt certain measures in regard to the organisation of education. These I think were the main points touched upon by the Ho'nble Members of the House in the course of discussion yesterday and to-day. With regard to the first point that there has been and there continues to be a phenomenal annual increase in the educational expenditure I do not wish to discuss. The question remains whether we have any factors which obviously account and render inevitable this expenditure up to a certain point. If we analyse the budget, we find in the first place that 40 per cent of this increase is due to the work and responsibility of the uplift department having been handed over to us—I mean the management of 40 schools. 40 per cent of this additional increase is, therefore, really no increase in education. It is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

simply a jugglery of figures as, Sir, one Hon'ble Member pointed out the other day.

Then again, there are certain inevitable features of all budgets. The tiresome features of all budgets is the cost of certain establishments. I have the misfortune, Sir, to be the head of an army of nearly 4000 and odd discontented men who are always feeling that they deserve much better and yet can find no means of getting anything better than they get today. Mr. President, Sir, you can easily imagine what the cost of this army of workers must mean to the budget. That is the point to be remembered. I can honestly confess that we have not provided for any sort of luxury except of course, in the sense that education itself is in the opinion of some Members, a luxury and a wasteful one. Thanks to the efforts of the Member in charge of the Public Works Department for the energy with which he has put into the execution of the College Works, we are at the end of that line of expenditure and I hope, Sir, that more money will be liberated for expenditure upon the essentials, upon the prime needs of education—I mean, Elementary Education. Then, Sir, there is the question, how far this is a waste. I submit, Sir, that there is one branch of education which is not concerned with utility, namely, Elementary education. Hon'ble Members will find from a reference to the budget, a large share of expenditure has been allotted to elementary education. There are certain local needs which have been brought to the notice of the House during the course of the general discussion, namely, the improvement of housing accommodation of the Mattancherry Girls' L. S. School, the opening of a Lower Secondary School in Nemmara and provisional extention works to High School, Narakkal. All these points will be carefully borne in mind.

Mr. President, I do not wish to encroach upon the time of the House, and I therefore beg leave to resume my seat.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, to avoid repetition and for want of time, I do not propose to cover those administrative or quasi-political questions which have already been covered by my predecessors. I will rather confine myself to those criticisms which were urged against the budget, as the budget. I mean those criticisms which try to cover the form and general financial implications of the budget. The first point that was urged by the Member for Trichur North was that he found that the Standing Finance Committee had unfortunately very little to do with the budget. I should with due deference to him point out to the House that the rules do not contemplate

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

that the Standing Finance Committee should prepare the budget. The Finance Committee only scrutinises the budget ; it elicits information from Government Members and it makes its own suggestions on the main bull-work, the main service heads and the main expenditure side. The main details of the budget are left as they are. The same process has been gone through this year also. There has been no dereliction of duty either on the part of the non-official members or on the part of the official members in the discharge of the work.

Another point urged—more commonly yesterday—was that the small surplus that we have in hand to-day may be wiped out by the additional allotment that may be brought forward in the next year, and that, therefore, the virtue of a surplus budget does not exist at all. Sir, this criticism again I have to submit to the House with due deference to the Members, is absolutely inconsistent with the first principles of budgetting. We budget only for what we can anticipate, we cannot begin to provide lump amounts on the possible contingency that this or that additional allotment might be brought in. If we do that, the budget would become unreliable and inaccurate. It would be also against the first principles of budgetting. If in the course of next year, we bring in any demand for additional allotment which in the opinion of the House is not necessary it is open to the House to reject it on that ground. Incidentally, I may point out that the Government before deciding to move any additional allotment examines very carefully all the aspects of the budgetary position, not only the necessity for the expenditure, but also how it affects the budgetary situation—that is invariably examined before any allotment is passed on to the House. It is not in any casual manner or as a matter of routine that allotments are allowed to be moved.

Another charge—it is not really a charge, it is more an attempt to laugh away the budget—is that it is an old *Mamool* budget. Yes, I concede that the service heads, both on the receipts and expenditure sides are the same. These must generally be so in any budget. But they are only like the pegs of a coat stand which serve the purpose of a fixture on which the budget figures could be hung. The pegs may be the same. But the figures and the purposes for which they are provided may and do vary from year to year. Only from the study of the explanatory memorandum and the purposes for which those figures stand—only from this can you appreciate the success or the failure of the budget.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

A still more graver charge has been levelled against the budget and that is that itis a rich man's budget. I flatly and stoutly challenge and deny that statement. I am not merly echoing words for words. Atpage 1, you will find that more than a sum of rupees fifty lakhs is provided for expenditure on departments like Education, Ayurveda, Public Works, Agricultural Demonstration, Co-operative Societies, Village Panchayats, etc., all of which go immediately and directly to the amelioration of the condition of the masses in the country, and to relieve the distress of the poor and theless unfortunate subjects of His Highness the Maharaja. Thetotal of those amounts exceeds more than rupees fifty lakhs.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How much does the salaries amount to?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Any service must have an establishment which should carry it on. If the Hon'ble Members are going to look atthe budget from this angle of vision, then I have nothing to say. The fact however remains that more than rupees fifty lakhs are directly spent on these services alone. How far then this is a rich man's budget or a poor man's budget, I leave it to the good sense of the House to decide.

And incidentally this brings me to the question of the Land Revenue Remission. Itis proposed to be continued for the next year also. This isone of the few ways in which the Government can help the agriculturist. It is unfair to cavil at it as a silly insignificant act.

Passing on, there was a reference to the Antony Committee report, and its recommendation to reduce the volume of debt and lower the interests in the closed contracts. The question has been fully dealt with by Hon'ble Members who preceded me. But I would take this opportunity of placing before the House one or two facts regarding the conditions prevailing in Europe. It was only very recently that I came across it by chance. I was reading a book called the "Finances of Europe after the War" prepared by experts and edited by the eminent economist, Dalton of London School of Economics. There they review the finances andthe budgetary position of all the countries in Europe from 1921 onwards and I may inform the House that except a little in Germany and Italy in all the other countries in Europe too the Governments have been persistently avoiding all attempts at disturbing what are called in technical terms "rigidities". This shows the risk of running into the delicate grounds of credit.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Another point that I would like to touch is the Land Mortgage Bank. There were a few who thought that this might end in a failure. I can only say that the Land Mortgage Bank is the only institution known to the civilised world for affording long term credits at low rate of interest, repayable by easy instalments. If that institution fails in this land, the blame will be not on the Bank but upon us, the people of this State. Let us hope that this calamity will not fall on this noble institution.

A word or more about one or two minor points. It is about the audit of railway accounts. This point used to be constantly urged in the general discussion during the previous years. We obtained the services of a special auditor for the State from the Offices of the Government Examiner of Railway Accounts and he is closely scrutinising the railway accounts. This again brings me to another minor point referred to by the Member for Trichur North about the Tramway accounts. He pointed out that there is no corresponding receipt on the receipt side towards the cost of these rails. Perhaps he did not know that the Railway Conversion accounts are kept separate from the budget. The Railway conversion is an account in itself quite different from the State Budget and a corresponding credit for the Rs. 60,000 will be found in the Railway Conversion Accounts to which we have to contribute money. Therefore, there is no omission on that score.

Then, Sir, a small sum of Rs. 25,000 is provided under 'Electricity'. I may inform the house that the amount is intended to purchase shares in case a company is floated to take up the work. The purpose for which the amount is provided was not mentioned in my explanatory memorandum and hence I refer to it now.

Well, Sir, I have completed the speech and I have given detailed information on the various points urged by the other side. I can only wind up the speech with the remark that, as things are, within the realm of practical politics to quote my own speech, our resources are limited and with the revenue available, we have met all reasonable demands.

President's Remarks on Budget Discussions.

Mr. President.—Hon'ble Members :—In winding up the general discussion on the budget I would like to make a few observations prompted by one or two criticisms of policies and actions for which I am solely responsible, and I think I owe it

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